



Get your
kit on.
Page 18



Call of the wild.

Page 21



Balanchine
in Beijing.

Page 12



Special
supplement on
the China-Africa
Forum

Page 5

Ground control to Major Tang

Page 2



Couldn't give a flip

Wuhan International Acrobatic Festival's closing ceremony in Wuhan Acrobatic Hall, Wednesday.

CFP Photo

Plans to protect 798 art district from developers

By Annie Wei

Demolishing old buildings in Beijing was once a complicated contradiction for many parties: residents, protectors, local government and real estate developers, especially when concerning beautiful historical buildings.

Now, Beijing's Municipal Institute of City Planning and Design and Municipal Commission of Urban Planning are drafting a new plan for Beijing's modern architec-

ture. The 798 Dashanzi Art District and Xizhimen Railway Station will be the focus of the plan.

Song Xiaolong, director of the Municipal Institute said that many modern historical buildings were also part of Beijing's architecture scene. Western influenced architecture has been springing up in Beijing since the 1840 opium war. But there is as yet "no plan or regulations to protect them," said Song.

So earlier this year Song got together with officials from the Commission of Urban Planning to draw up a scheme to protect these areas. "We will select influential types of modern architecture, including residential buildings, hospitals, stores, office buildings, hotels, schools and industrial sights," said Song.

Xizhimen Railway Station, built by the famous Chinese engineer Zhan Tainyou in 1906, Sanheli res-

idential area, a Russian style community built in the 1950s, and the 798 art district, will all be included in the preservation plans.

Tie Ying, an artist who has had a studio in Dashanzi since 2004, said he hadn't heard about the plans but welcomed the idea of preserving the district.

"With 798 getting more and more commercial," he said, "it's important that government bodies draw up a plan to protect the area."

Merry Christmas

Gong Xi Bei Lu
吉祥如意

Have your Xmas party at Pavilion.

Book now

Opening times 10am-late
Phone+8610 6507 2617
Fax+8610 6415 5242
www.pavillionbeijing.com
info@pavillionbeijing.com

Ground control to Major Tang

By Chen Shasha

Rupert Hoogewerf (Hu Run) has signed a contract with the UK's second largest long haul airline - Virgin Atlantic Airways on Wednesday, to launch space travel in China. Hoogewerf said the first group of travelers will realize their space dream in 2008.

According to Hoogewerf, the whole trip will last three hours,

with half an hour in outer space. Travelers will enjoy five minutes of zero gravity during the trip. The ticket price is US\$200,000 per person.

There will be 100 flights to outer space by Virgin Atlantic Airways during 2008, each containing two astronauts and six travelers. Two days training will be offered before the trip to test if the travelers are qualified to

travel to outer space.

Although no commercial insurance is offered for space travel now, Hoogewerf has confidence in the project. According to the annual report by Capgemini, one of the world leaders in management consulting, there are 320,000 RMB multimillionaires in China now. Hoogewerf said he had seen the statistics and talked to many people, their

interests in space travel and their personal properties made him launch the project. "Two people have signed up for the trip in the first two days after the contract was signed," Hoogewerf said.

The space travel is open for registration, and the first two tickets will be sent out this November. Anyone interested can call 021-62724690-108 for details.

Bid to save millions of tons of rainwater

By Gan Tian

More than 500 rain collection systems will be installed across Beijing this winter and spring in a bid to preserve an extra 40 million tons of water a year.

The Beijing Water Authority announced the plans on Tuesday and said the collection systems would include reservoirs, water stations and underground pumps.

Jiao Zhizhong, the president of the Water Authority, said the projects would make a great contribution to the city's water supply. "Before next year's rainy season, 12 main stations in the city will have been completed," he said.

This year, Beijing received 444mm of rainfall, 24mm less than last year. Out of a possible 230 million tons of rainwater, just 1.2 million was collected and used.

There are currently just 55 rainwater projects in Beijing, far too few according to officials from the Water Authority. Water collected by the new systems will be used, among other things, for irrigation, car washing and fire control.

Water leaks monitored

By Jackie Zhang

Five hundred water pipe monitors have been installed in Beijing to monitor the city's tap water supply pipe system. Another 1,500 monitors will be installed in the following months. The authorities want to monitor water leaks and pipe cracks to reduce water wastage.

Wang Yaowen, an engineer from the Beijing Waterworks Group, said that there were more than 6,400 kilometers of water pipes under Beijing. Many of them are old and hundreds crack, leaking thousands of gallons of water every year.

The Waterworks Group plans to invest 10 million yuan on installing the water monitoring system. According to Wang, the Permalog monitoring system is the most advanced in the world. It can collect water pipe information automatically. The first 32 monitors were installed in the first half this year in Hepingli-dong Street.

South Koreans get their own post office

By Jackie Zhang

A South Korean style decorated post office opened on Tuesday in the Wangjingxiyuan Community in Wangjing.

There are currently around 80,000 South Koreans living in and around the Wangjing area, making up a quarter of all the residents.

The post office staff are all kitted out in South Korean style clothes and serve customers in both Chinese and Korean. All the signs and instructions in the post office are in Chinese, Korean and English. The main services that the post office provides are mailing letters, money or other items to South Korea.



Don't 'rocket'!

A missile made by China on display at the Airshow China 2006, which kicked off this week in Zhuhai, a southern city in Guangdong Province on Monday. Thirty-two countries and areas will take part in this five-day event.

Xinhua Photo

Beijing uses satellites to monitor land use

By Chu Meng

Beijing will use three satellites to monitor land use as part of a crackdown on illegal real estate development activities, a local land official has said.

Starting this month, Beijing will investigate and prosecute major cases of illegal use of land, especially those that violate government

plans or national industrial policies and those that infringe on farmers' legitimate rights, An Jiasheng, director of the Beijing Municipal Bureau of Land and Resources was quoted as saying by Xinhua News Agency this week.

Authorities can now avail themselves of satellite remote sensing technologies to discover and pre-

vent the illegal use of land, An Jiasheng said. Land use regulations in Beijing have been ignored by unscrupulous profiteers.

The Chinese central government tightened control over land after the economy grew 10.9 percent in the first half, promising to penalize local officials who fail to stop or investigate land use

transgressions.

The Ministry of Land and Resources laid down in a recent circular that local governments must not approve more land for construction in 2007 than they did in 2006. "The principle is to strengthen macro-economic control and use land resources economically," the circular said.

98 percent of elderly cared for at home

By Jackie Zhang

The vast majority of over 60s living in Beijing - 98 percent - have to be looked after at home because there are so few old people's homes in the city.

According to statistics released by Beijing Civil Affairs on Monday, the number of people in the capital over the age 60 is now over two million, making up 13.1 percent of the total population. However, there are just 30,000 beds in the cities old people's homes meaning that the overwhelming majority has to be looked after by family or friends. The number of old people living alone or with their spouses is around 600,000.

The statistics and the study are being highlighted in the run up to the Double Ninth Festival next Monday (the 9th day of the 9th lunar month) in China which celebrates the elderly.

Eye scare as contact lens solution is taken off shelves

By Chen Shasha

Four kinds of contact lens solutions, three China-made and one US-made, were found to contain mildew that could damage users' eyesight in an investigation by the Beijing Health Bureau this week.

Shops have been told to take the solutions off their shelves, according to Li Yang, vice director of the Beijing Health Bureau. On Tuesday, Shanghai Hydron

Contact Lens Company, one of the four companies producing the banned solutions, apologized on their website and claimed to have recalled all the mildew-infected contact lens solutions produced on October 27. Alcon Company also claimed Wednesday that they would recall all their solutions and refund customers.

The four solutions include Hai Chang multifunctional contact lens

solution produced by the Shanghai Hydron Contact Lens Company with the product code 20051027, Bao Shining protein clean up contact lens solution produced in Guangzhou with the product code 2005/09/18, Liangjie protein clean up contact lens solution produced in Beijing with the product code 06030015 and Alcon Opti-Free Express produced by US firm Alcon with the product code 63188F.

Music competition

By Annie Wei

Hundreds of people will put their musical skills to the test this month when a music competition kicks off in the capital.

The event, organized by Beijing Music Radio, the Beijing Musicians Association and the Beijing Working People's Culture Palace will get under way at the end of this month.

Competitors will be separated into two groups, teenagers and adults. They will be able to perform with any musical instrument, including the piano, accordion, keyboard, violin, trumpet and saxophone as well as Chinese traditional instruments like the Erhu, China medley and Chinese Zheng.

And organizers are keen that

foreign students and expatriates take part in the competition.

"There are more than 30 international primary schools and high schools in Beijing," said organizer Feng Jian. "This is a great opportunity to mix participants from local schools and international schools in one great musical event."

For more information call 8511 4568 or 6512 3817.

Expats fork out up to US\$8 million for luxury apartments

By Annie Wei

Expats are snapping up some of the most expensive housing in Beijing, with some forking out up to US\$8 million for an apartment.

The Park Hyatt Penthouse, located on floors 50 to 58 of the Beijing Yin Tai center, opposite the World Trade Center in

Guomao, is considered one of the most expensive high-rise apartment blocks in the capital.

With prices starting at 70,000 yuan per square meters, the Park Hyatt Penthouse sells apartments in three sizes from 550 square meters to 860 square meters.

Mr Long, from the Beijing Yin Tai Center, the company that sells

the penthouses, confirmed that seven out of a total of 21 penthouses had been reserved by buyers from overseas during a promotion event in Hong Kong last week.

The trend is continuing despite new government regulations released in July that aimed to cool what is considered to be an over-heating property market.

The regulations included laws limiting the number of homes that foreigners are allowed to buy in the city.

The Yin Tai Center says their buyers all meet the requirements – some have been living in Beijing for two or three years, while some have setup their companies in China.

Beijing goes quick flick crazy

By Gan Tian

Quick Flick World (QFW), an international organization connected by the Internet, is holding its China-based quick flick show in Box Cafe (No.5, Xiwangzhuang, Shuangqing Road, Haidian) on November 10.

'Saint', a quick flick fan from London, created the organization in 2002. More than 10 Curators in different cities around the world set a monthly theme, and members of QFW make a short film no more than five minutes long according to this theme. Afterwards, there will be a show of the best short films selected from all over the world.

"The most interesting part of Quick Flick World is that you know you are making a flick with people all over the world," said Tung Bi, an organizer of QFW China.

The November theme is 'Lucky'. Those who are interested in making films can email their works to fancytb@hotmail.com before November 10. There will be a show of the best worldwide short films in October's theme 'Invisible' on that day.

Brief news

Death penalty amendment

China's top legislature have adopted a change to the law on the country's court system this Tuesday, requiring all death sentences to be approved by the Supreme People's Court from January 1, next year.

Anti-money-laundering law

The anti-money laundering law got the approval of the 24th session of the Standing Committee of China's 10th National People's Congress this week, and will go into effect from next year.

Crooked prosecutors punished

More than 90 prosecutors across the country have been punished for violating law enforcement procedures while carrying out criminal investigations since last May, Prosecutor-general Jia Chunwang of the Supreme People's Procuratorate said this week.

Lesser criminal cases

The country has filed around 3,300,000 reported criminal cases in the first nine months of this year, down 1.2 percent from the same period of last year, Bai Jingfu, vice minister of the Public Security, said this week.

Over 2,000 nature reserves

The country has established some 2,400 nature reserves in the last few decades with a total area of 1.5 million square kilometers, accounting for 15 percent of the nation's land area, the State Environmental Protection Administration stated this week.

1,000 lakes shrink

Nearly 1,000 lakes have shrunk over the past 50 years, mainly because of improper farming activities, Zhu Guangyao, Vice Minister of State Environmental Protection Administration said this Wednesday.

(By Jiang Xubo)



By Gan Tian

Three young men and a girl hung themselves on Sunday in 798 Art District. This was no protest at the sub-standard daubings on display, but an attempt to break the world record for 'human body

hanging' - which they did, by hanging for seven minutes.

Human body hanging originated in India, and was once popular in punk groups in the west. Opinion is divided on whether this counts as art, or mere tomfoolery.

Photo by Lv Jiazuo from Y Weekend

Zoo animals suffer from poor business

By Annie Wei

Shenyang Glacier Zoological Paradise seems more like hell to its staff and animals. Since this week, the zoo announced it will close because of poor business.

According to a local newspaper, the animals were suffering from starvation and poor conditions in the zoo: elephants were pushing their bodies to the wall to show

their anger at being hungry, the tigers were listless, with only two dead chickens for dinner. Ducks and geese which used to entertain visitors have had to be fed to the big carnivores to cut costs.

Wu Xi, vice party secretary of the zoo said their revenue decreased 50 percent compared to last year and it was impossible to keep running.

According to Wu, the Shenyang zoo paradise, founded in 2000, was a national level urban forest wild animal zoo, with an area of 2.4 million square meters. Currently, they have over 2,000 animals of more than 100 species. However since this year, the zoo has relied entirely on ticket sales for its income. Priced at 60 to 80 yuan, very few visitors came and the zoo could not make

enough money to make ends meet.

Wu said the animals were government assets and they had no right to auction them off, kill them or transfer them to other zoos.

The temperature in Shenyang has been very low and only the rooms with elephants and giraffes have heating. Getting food and heating are the urgent issues for the animals in the zoo now.

International boarding school expo

By Chen Shasha

The second international boarding school exhibition will be held in Zhao Long hotel this Sunday, with 18 schools from America, Britain, Canada, New Zealand, Switzerland and India

taking part.

It is being organized by The Association of Boarding Schools (TABS) and the International Board Abroad Fair (IBAF).

He Qingqing, from IBAF, said a large number of Chinese chil-

dren now studied in boarding schools overseas. "Many parents prefer to send their children to boarding school because the schools are under 24-hour management, and students are not allowed out of campus without

permission," she said. He Qingqing said that on average, boarding schools charge around 200,000 yuan a year, including tuition and accommodation.

The exhibition will run from 10:00am to 16:00pm.

World MBA tour coming to Beijing

By Han Manman

The annual world MBA tour will arrive in Beijing next Saturday at the Kerry Center Hotel. It will give applicants in China the chance to meet and talk to the staff of over 100 top MBA Schools and find out all about both the full-time and part-time programs.

During the fair, MBA professors will introduce their school history, unique features, curriculum, faculty, student profiles and career development opportunities as well as the application procedure.

The participants will meet with over 100 of the world's top MBA schools including the Universities

of Wharton, Chicago, Columbia, CEIBS and Lancaster University Management School. At the same time, participants can also attend lectures and forums for free, and some education experts will lecture the students on the aspects of applying for an MBA.

The World MBA Tour is a

direct way to investigate business schools from around the world and learn more about your options for graduate study. All fairs are open to the public.

It will be held at The Kerry Center Hotel, No. 1 Guang Hua Road, Chaoyang District, Beijing from 2pm - 6pm.

China's great haul: 15 billionaires

Shanghai, November 2 (USA Today) - Forbes' annual list of the richest Chinese out today includes a record 15 billionaires, up from 10 last year and just three in 2004.

China's new billionaires have profited from enterprises ranging

from selling TVs to recycling paper to building condos. "Chinese are born with entrepreneurialism in their genes," says Russell Flannery, who compiled Forbes' list.

The combined worth of China's richest 40 jumped nearly 50% from

last year to US\$38 billion. The minimum fortune to gain entry to the exclusive club: US\$514 million.

Topping the list is electrical appliance king Wong Kwong Yu, 37, whose worth is estimated at US\$2.3 billion.

China's recent surge in mega-wealth is "comparable to the US at the end of the 19th century, when you had the Rockefellers and Carnegies," says Rupert Hoogewerf, CEO of *Hurun Report*, a rival list of the rich.

The top ten richest Chinese according to Forbes magazine:

Name	Age	Residence	Business	Worth
1 Wong Kwong Yu	37	Beijing	Retailer	US\$2.3 billion
2 Xu Rongmao	56	Hong Kong	Property development	US \$2.1 billion
3 Larry Rong Zhijian	64	Hong Kong	Real estate, banking	US \$2 billion
4 Zhu Mengyi	47	Guangzhou	Real estate	US \$1.9 billion
5 Yan Cheung	49	Hong Kong	Manufacturing	US \$1.5 billion
6 Zhang Li	52	Guangzhou	Property development	US \$1.45 billion
7 Shi Zhengrong	43	Wuxi	Technology	US \$1.43 billion
8 Liu Yongxing	58	Shanghai	Animal feed, metals	US \$1.16 billion
9 Guo Guangchang	39	Shanghai	Steel, real estate, retail	US \$1.15 billion
10 Lu Guanqiu	61	Hangzhou	Auto parts	US \$1.14 billion

Citigroup wins bid for China bank

Beijing, November 1 (AFP) - US banking giant Citigroup has been cleared to buy China's bankrupt Guangdong Development Bank after a lengthy battle with France's Societe Generale, state press reported.

"Citigroup and GDB are expected to sign an agreement to finalize the acquisition, which has been approved by the China Banking Regulatory Commission," Xinhua news agency reported, citing an inside source with knowledge of the deal.

The source confirmed that the New York-based financial group would secure with its wholly-owned subsidiary Associates First Capital a share of no more than 25 percent of the Guangdong Development Bank, it said.

No details on the price or the final composition of the invest-

ment group were immediately available.

It was the second time in nearly two months that press reports, citing knowledgeable sources, reported that Citigroup had been cleared to take a stake in the troubled bank.

Societe Generale denied the earlier reports, saying it was still in the running.

The American bank, the world's biggest, in December had bid 24.1 billion yuan (US\$3.06 billion) for the ailing lender, but the bid had to be revised due to limits on foreign ownership of Chinese banks, Xinhua said.

Citigroup, which hired former US president George Bush to lobby on its behalf, had reportedly asked for a 40 percent stake in a consortium that would take 85 percent of the bank.

Ford to double purchase of China-made parts

Beijing, November 1 (Bloomberg News) - The Ford Motor Company, which this week reported its biggest loss in 14 years, will almost double its purchase of China-made parts this year to cut production costs.

Ford will buy US\$2.5 billion to US\$3 billion in auto parts in China, William Ford Jr., the carmaker's chairman, said in Beijing. That compared with US\$1.6 billion to US\$1.7 billion bought last year from China. The

parts will be exported to plants in other Asian countries, Europe and the United States.

Ford needs less expensive components from China to meet its goal of cutting US\$6 billion in annual costs by 2010. The carmaker reported a US\$5.8 billion third-quarter loss as American sales slumped.

DaimlerChrysler said in June that it would increase the purchase of parts in China to more than US\$840 million in 2008.

Microsoft licenses locally crafted software

San Francisco, November 1 (AFP) - Microsoft said it was licensing new software to local firms in China for the first time in a move that showed confidence in China's economy and hope for its anti-piracy efforts.

The Redmond, Washington-based software giant struck partnerships with Comtech Group in Shenzhen and with Talkweb

Information System in Hunan, according to Microsoft director of intellectual property ventures David Harnett.

Comtech will license software making it easier to view pictures or high-quality videos on mobile devices. Talkweb will use Microsoft software for a website that converts digital images of people into cartoons.



Expo lights up city

The China-ASEAN Expo, which has attracted over 2,000 enterprises and organizations from home and abroad, lights up Nanning, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

Xinhua Photo

Carrefour opens suburban branch in Beijing

Beijing, October 28 (Reuters) - Carrefour, the world second largest retailer giant, opened its first suburban branch in Beijing.

The new branch, located in the Tongzhou District, is also Carrefour's 1,000th branch in the world.

Invested with 42 million yuan (US\$5.3 million), the suburban branch covers more than 8,000

square meters, selling over 30,000 kinds of commodities, said the branch head Qin Hong.

Carrefour entered China in 1995 and currently it has 84 branches in the country.

Carrefour plans to open more hypermarkets and discounts in China's medium and small-sized cities, said Carrefour's CEO Jose Luis Duran.

Philips eyes inland provinces for expansion

Beijing, November 2 (XFN-Asia) - Royal Philips Electronics is looking to expand in China's interior and has set up a sales team to bring its products to inland provinces, the company's chief executive officer Gerard Kleisterlee said at a forum in Beijing.

He added that the key challenge to the company is dealing with the size of the market and the need to develop distribution networks to build up business outside Shanghai and other major coastal metropolitan areas.

Optical Communication to manufacture in China

New York, November 2 (bizjournals.com) - Optical Communication Products Inc. says it will manufacture some of its product lines in China beginning in summer 2007.

The Woodland Hills-based fiber-to-the-home optical components company said it will maintain its existing manufacturing facilities in Woodland Hills and Hsinchu, Taiwan, but will reduce these workforces.

China Shipping Dev to buy carriers

Hong Kong, November 2 (Reuters) - China Shipping Development Co. Ltd. said it would buy 42 dry bulk cargo carriers from controlling parent China Shipping (Group) Co. for 2.47 billion yuan (US\$313.8 million).

The Hong Kong-listed shipping group said the vessels included 32 China-registered and 10 foreign-registered carriers and the deal would add 1.4 million deadweight tons to its existing fleet of 79 bulk carriers.

Singapore's GIC buys Beijing Capital Land shares

Singapore, October 27 (Reuters) - The real estate arm of the Government of Singapore Investment Corp. said it spent HK\$1.05 billion (US\$135 million) to increase its stake in property developer Beijing Capital Land to 22.8 percent from 9.6 percent.

Beijing Capital Land specializes in the investment and development of medium to high-end residential apartments, offices and high-end commercial properties.

Fujifilm's China sales to overtake Europe

Beijing, November 1 (Bloomberg) - Fujifilm Holdings Corp. said China may overtake Europe in four years as the company's third-biggest market, on demand for liquid-crystal display televisions.

"LCD manufacturing in China will grow very rapidly," said Yokota Koji, president of the Chinese unit of Fujifilm.



Meeting heralds new era of South-South ties

Senior figures from the worlds of business and politics from 48 countries across Africa are gathering in Beijing this week for a summit that seeks to promote friendship, peace, cooperation and development for nations that are home to one third of the world's population.

Join us as we speak with the ambassadors to China of 15 nations attending the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, as they share painful memories of poverty, enthusiasm for a better life, a hope for deeper understanding and joy at development.



By Chu Meng

Beijing Today (BT): As the first African country that established diplomatic ties with China in 1956, what will President Hosni Mubarak look forward to during his visit on the 50th anniversary of our diplomatic ties?

Egyptian Ambassador Mr. Mahmoud Allam (Allam): China is embarking upon a brisk drive that is expected to give a strong development impetus to its relations with Egypt, the Arab states and Africa, all of which are scheduled to take place in the course of the coming year.

Longest relationship between two ancient civilizations

As far as Egyptian-Chinese ties are concerned, preparations are underway to celebrate the golden anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. We are looking forward to another upcoming visit by President Hosni Mubarak during the Africa-China Summit.

BT: What significant economic developments have been achieved during the past 50 years?

Allam: China was a genuine partner in Egypt's development process, and in its ambitious plan to acquire advanced technology and encourage investments. Four years of close cooperation between Egypt

'China was a genuine partner in Egypt's development process, and in its ambitious plan to acquire advanced technology and encourage investments.'

and China have paid off. The trade volume between both countries has jumped from US\$952 million in 2001 to US\$1577 million in 2004, and reached US\$2.14 billions by the end of last year. US\$ 10 billion is our estimated goal for this year.

Over the past four years Egyptian and Chinese officials have been exchanging visits, culminating in a visit by President Hosni Mubarak to Beijing in 2002, and a visit

by Premier Wen Jiabao to Cairo in June 2006. China has opened the first Chinese cultural center for Africa and the Middle East in Egypt, with an eye to the unique geographic advantage of Egypt as a window on Africa and the Middle East.

BT: What will the Summit bring for ties in the near future?

Allam: The Egyptian government has established a Chinatown

in Cairo, where Chinese enterprises can open offices and enjoy preferential tax policies. Egypt would like to create a special trading relationship with China in the near future, a relationship not only based on imports and exports but also investment and joint cooperation in other fields.

Trade between Egypt and China has been growing by 30 to 40 percent annually, and we estimate that China will become Egypt's main trading partner even without any special policies if the growth continues at that rate for the next eight or nine years.



Morocco sees role in tripartite links

By Han Manman

"The Sino-Africa forum is like a big festival. We are not here to horse-trade, or try to bargain for something, we are gathered just to talk about what kind of future the relationship between Africa and China will have, and how to find the best way to make what we know and what China knows to build solidarity and friendship," Moroccan ambassador to China Mr

'If we mix Chinese finance with Moroccan knowledge, it will be to the benefit of all.'

Mohamed Cherti said.

Mr Cherti said relations to date have been smooth, with a very high level of cooperation and no problems.

Mr Cherti said that as a founding member, Morocco would like the forum to continue and flourish. "We also

want to take a role in tripartite cooperation. We are African, we know Africa better than China. Africa is very big; it is hard for China to cover everything there. We have more links with some countries, including our neighbors. We have some know-how in certain fields like the water

management. If we mix Chinese finance with Moroccan knowledge, it will be to the benefit of all."

Moroccan businessmen have made some investments in the tea industry, but only on a small scale to date. Mr Cherti said, "We expect China's business people to invest in Morocco. There are not enough Chinese businesses investing in us, things are just beginning".

Ethiopia expects more investment

By Han Manman

Ethiopia's ambassador to China, Mr Haile-Kiros Gessesse, said that the bilateral relations between Ethiopia and China, particularly in investment and infrastructure, have been gaining momentum.

Mr Gessesse said that Ethiopia is a co-chair of this summit, and thus has a very big responsibility to make sure the forum is a success. "Ethiopia historically

'Ethiopia historically worked among African countries to bring them together, which is why we believe we can play a positive role in bringing China and Africa together.'

worked among African countries to bring them together, which is why we believe we can play a positive role in bringing China and Africa together," said Mr Gessesse.

"The main theme of the forum

is attracting more Chinese investment in Africa, and getting the Chinese government to open its markets to African goods, and also to gain access to social development in education and health. We also want to work together

politically in the international arena," said the ambassador.

Mr Gessesse sees this forum as a culmination of the development of China and Africa's relationship. "China and Africa will forge a new strategic relationship at this summit. Chinese-African cooperation is South-South cooperation. It allows for dynamism in economic, political and social cooperation, and also encourages trade."



Photos by Tian Yufeng

China aid to Tanzania will never be forgotten

'China treats African countries as equals, and China is always a reliable friend for Africa.'

By Han Manman

Mr Omar Mapuri, appointed as ambassador to China this September, recalled the history of cooperation between Tanzania and China.

"China and Tanzania have a long history of political cooperation. In our most difficult time, China gave assistance that we will never forget. China was the first country to recognize the revolution in Zanzibar," said Mr Mapuri. Before the Tanganyika union, there were two countries named Zanzibar and Tanganyika. Tanganyika became independent in 1961 and Zanzibar became independent in 1963. "So, when Tanganyika united with Zanzibar in 1964 to form the United Republic of Tanzania, we had already set up diplomatic relations with China."

Mr Mapuri said after independence, China sent workers to assist in projects throughout Tanzania, and gave material support as well. During that time, China helped Tanzania and Zambia build the Tanzania-Zambia Railway. Chinese medical

teams, with dozens of traditional Chinese medicine doctors, worked at the railway construction sites.

"China treats African countries as equals, and China is always a reliable friend for Africa," said Mr Mapuri. He said Tanzania is a member of the African Union, where it plays a key role. "We will also persuade those who have still not established diplomatic relations with China, and tell them China is the tree and Taiwan is just a branch."

Mr Mapuri said the Tanzanian delegation is led by President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete. It includes more than 50 business people. They hope to hold talks with their Chinese counterparts about technology, energy diversification, and processing of agricultural and sideline products.



Photo by Kang Yafeng

Djibouti free zone to attract investors

Chinese investors can enjoy tax-free treatment for five to ten years in the Djibouti Free Zone.

By Qiu Jiaoning

The Republic of Djibouti is emerging as an important gateway for trade on the African continent and is trying to attract more Chinese investors and tourists, said Mr Moussa B Odowa, the republic's ambassador to China.

"Djibouti lies at a vital crossroads on the trade route between East and West, offering excellent port facilities for import, export and trans-shipment, and onward connections by road, rail and air," said Mr Odowa.

Djibouti's most important economic asset is the strategic location on the shipping routes between the Mediterranean Sea and the Indian Ocean and its status as a free trade zone.

Mr Odowa said that Djibouti is making efforts to become a tourist destination country for Chinese citizens and to attract more Chinese people to travel, invest and live.

To attract more investors, the country has set up the Djibouti Free Zone (DFZ), where Chinese investors can enjoy tax-free treatment for five to ten years. "The 17-hectare Djibouti Free Zone (DFZ) is the first of its kind in Africa. It provides business investors in Africa with a platform from which to tap in to the potential of the



Photo by Wang Wei

African market," said Mr Odowa.

Djibouti Port is two kilometers from the DFZ, and has become one of East Africa's busiest and most efficient ports, handling all kinds of cargo and served by some of the world's major shipping lines.

Some Chinese companies have been invited to Djibouti to attend trade talks to be held on November 15. The trade volume between the two countries in 2005 stood at US\$111.99 million, of which exports from China accounted for US\$111.46 million, and imports US\$530,000.

During the forum, African countries will learn a lot from China's development experience, said the ambassador. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Djibouti in 1979, bilateral relations have made steady progress.

Briefs

Liberian president visits Hunan

Liberian President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf said this week that her country values its cooperation with central China's Hunan Province on hybrid rice production.

She said 70 percent of the Liberian population work in agricul-

ture, mainly in rice production. She hoped to see wider utilization of technologies for hybrid rice production in Liberia, so to improve local people's living standards.

Hu pledges to promote ties with Guinea-Bissau

China will work with Guinea-Bissau to further the traditional friendship between the nations,

and increase bilateral cooperation, said President Hu Jintao Wednesday.

The two nations should work hard to implement current economic and trade cooperation projects and expand cooperation in fishery, agriculture, infrastructure, personnel training, culture, education and health, Hu said.

After their talks, the two presidents attended a signing cere-

A special relationship

'There are endless opportunities to be exploited by the most populous country in the world and a small developing island whose population is less than 1.3 million.'

By Gan Tian

Beijing Today (BT): How many people in your delegation in this China-Africa Forum? Who are they?

Mr Paul Chong Leung, ambassador of the Republic of Mauritius, (Leung): The Mauritius delegation will be made up of 12 people. It will be headed by the Prime Minister of Mauritius, who is the son of the our first Prime Minister after independence in 1968, the man who in 1972 established diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China.

BT: What are your expectations of this forum?

Leung: Ever since 1972, China and Mauritius have worked hand in hand in every imaginable field. The forum will certainly strengthen the already strong relations between the most populous country in the world and a small developing island whose population is less than 1.3 million, but whose strategic position in the Indian Ocean and other economic partners can

not be underestimated.

BT: Can you describe the two countries' economic cooperation?

Leung: Mauritius imports a lot of goods from China which is one of our main trading partners. The balance of trade is considerably in favor of China. Mauritius hopes Chinese tourists will come and enjoy the island.

BT: What's your view on China's development?

Leung: I am, like all other visitors to this country, awe-stricken by the pace of the development and progress in China. Having achieved so much in so little time, it is now at a cruising speed.

Once it comes to terms with energy and environmental problems, China will have a very bright future, in accordance with the wishes of the government of the People's Republic of China and President Hu Jintao, to create a harmonious society.



Photo provided by the Embassy of the Republic of Mauritius

China's economic rise good for Africa

He praises the political decision by the Chinese government to further boost economic and trade ties with African nations based on the principles of mutual benefit and non-interference.

By Huang Daohen

Mr Julio Morais, ambassador of the Republic of Cape Verde, took up his Beijing post last August and is the country's first ambassador to China since the two countries established diplomatic relation in 1976.

Mr Morais was full of praise for the political decision by the Chinese government to further boost economic and trade ties with African nations based on the principles of mutual benefit and non-interference in each other's internal affairs. "China's economic rise and in particular its contribution to the increase in the global demand for resources, such as aluminum, steel, nickel, copper, oil and gas, has immensely contributed to Africa's importance as a provider of these resources," said the ambassador.

Cape Verde, the ambassador said, has sent a delegation of 15 people, led by the president, to attend the summit. Noting that the Beijing summit presented a good opportunity to learn more about the great potential of the Chinese market, Mr Morais hoped that the delegation would take home new ideas and constructive plans for further expansion

and deepening economic ties between China and Cape Verde.

Mr Morais smiled as he recalled the long history of friendly cooperation between Cape Verde and China, saying that relations between the two countries had been further consolidated in recent years in politics, diplomacy, economy, sports and education.

Cape Verde is a well-known tourist destination, the ambassador said. Each island has its own unique customs and culture. Even their languages are very different. The ambassador has plans for a campaign this year to improve Cape Verde's slice of the Chinese tourist market.

Mr Morais stressed that his country highly valued its developing ties with China. He believed that the two countries would continue to explore new ways to cooperate. He also expressed the hope that China would invest further in Cape Verde.



Photo by Tian Yufeng

He said in a meeting with Shanghai mayor Han Zheng that his country had only recently emerged from a civil war that severely damaged its economy, telecommunications facilities and infrastructure.

He hoped China's success in economic development and close bilateral cooperation could help Angola to restore its national economy. (Xinhua)

mony of documents concerning bilateral economic and technological cooperation.

Angola-China links help reconstruction

Angolan Prime Minister Fernando da Piedade Dias dos Santos said Wednesday that he hoped Angola-China cooperation could contribute to the post-war reconstruction of Angola.



A shared global vision

'China shares the same attitude with us on tariff affairs, seeking the elimination of tariff barriers in bilateral trade.'

By Huang Daohen

Madame Naomi E Majinda, the Republic of Botswana's ambassador to China, arrived in Beijing last May, having previously served as ambassador to Sweden.

The ambassador described the relations between China, Botswana and Africa as 'excellent'. Madame Majinda expressed appreciation for China's 'generous assistance' to Botswana in agriculture, health, land surveying, and railway and road construction and other sectors over the past 21 years.

"A number of countries in this region have benefited so much from China's assistance in the same way that Botswana did," she said, "Botswana now enjoys an excellent, beneficial relationship with China." There has been investment from China, particularly in the private sector, and small Chinese traders are going to Botswana to conduct business, the ambassador added. Madame Majinda said Botswana welcomes further Chinese involvement in its mineral sector.

China and Africa, according to the

ambassador, have a similar view regarding access to markets. "China shares the same attitude with us on tariff

affairs, seeking the elimination of tariff barriers in bilateral trade," Majinda said.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of China-Africa friendship and cooperation. To mark the occasion, Botswana has sent a high-level delegation, headed by President Festus Mogae, to attend this week's summit.

"I think it [the summit] is very important. We do have a very deliberate foreign policy to improve our relationship with China," said the ambassador, "We will work together with China to find how the two sides can promote faster trade and investment, including how we can export more to China, and how China can export more to Africa. We have to look into something that both countries want." The ambassador said.



Guinea wants to build harmonious society too

Trade balance, technology transfer and investment will be big issues during the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation.

By Huang Daohen

When China's seat at the United Nations was restored in 1971, one person celebrating was the representative from the Republic of Guinea. Senkoun Sylla, who is now charge d'affaires and first Consul at the Embassy of the Republic of Guinea to China.

Guinea, Sylla said, was the first country in southern Africa to establish diplomatic relations with China in 1959.

Having enjoyed a boom in bilateral trade and investment in recent years, Guinea and China now should move swiftly to forge a new partnership, he suggested. "We want Chinese people to come to Guinea for more than just trade though, we would also like to see them bring technological know-how as well as capital, and to share a win-win cooperation."

Mr Sylla encouraged Chinese investors to engage in the energy, mining, agriculture and aquaculture sectors in his country, which is rich in gold, iron resources.



Mr Sylla said 2006 has been termed as China's 'Year of Africa' after China released its first African policy paper earlier this year. It includes proposals for comprehensive cooperation with Africa in various fields over the coming years.

He added that trade balance, technology transfer and investment will be big issues during the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation.

Mr Sylla expressed his satisfaction at living in Beijing, "Beijing is a great city. The people are friendly, enthusiastic and full of vitality. My colleagues and I are very happy, and feel proud to live and work in Beijing."

He was enthusiastic about China's building of a harmonious society. He said China's experience could serve as a good example for his country, even the whole African continent.

Uganda expects a fruitful forum



Uganda was one of five countries added to the list of nations the National Bureau of Tourism allows Chinese citizens to travel to.



By He Jianwei

Charles Madibo Wagidoso, ambassador of the Republic of Uganda to China, told *Beijing Today*, "We have 43 people in our official delegation [to the summit], and also a delegation of business people here to explore prospects for cooperation with the Chinese counterparts, so the delegation will be more than 60 people in total."

The ambassador was optimistic about the upcoming forum.

On October 17, Uganda was one of the five countries added to the list of nations the National Bureau of Tourism allows Chinese citizens to travel to.

"About a week ago, a group of Ugandan tourists came to China. And I see good prospects for more of that in the future," said Mr Wagidoso.

There are currently 44 students from Uganda in China on scholarships provided by the Chinese government, with 15 more due to arrive this year. Students come to China to study in many disciplines, such as medicine and technology.

The students benefit greatly, especially those studying medicine, who make valuable contribution to health services when they return to Uganda, he added.

Cultural ties are also strong. A Chinese businessman suggested the Chinese Ambassador to Uganda to build a Chinese culture center in Kampala. He also hoped to build a culture center in Beijing to showcase the art and crafts of Uganda.

Mr Wagidoso expects the major issues at the summit to be trade and investment. "We'll discuss how to get investment from China," he said.

He expected the two countries would sign a series of agreements on cooperation in energy and e-government.

Good relations for 1,300 years

'We share similar experiences, we have the same feelings, and we have both struggled for our independence and freedom. Importantly, we help each other when we are in trouble.'

By Gan Tian

Mr Mohamed Awil, the ambassador of the Federal Republic of Somalia, spoke to *Beijing Today* on the eve of the summit, telling us, "China and Africa are like twin brothers who have been separated, but will ultimately be reunited."

"We share similar experiences, we have the same feelings, and we have both struggled for our independence and freedom. Importantly, we help each other when we are in trouble. There's an old saying, a friend in need is a friend indeed."

Mr Awil pointed out China and Somalia have had good relations for over 1,300 years. When Zheng He made his trip to Africa 600 years ago, he visited what is now Somalia.

"Good relations still prevail today. China has built roads, reservoirs, stadiums, factories, hospitals, and water supply systems in our country. We export shark fins, leather and

many other goods to China. Many Somalian individuals are in business in Shanghai, and many joint-ventures have been set up in our country."

Mr Awil said he loves Beijing. "It is a safe city. It isn't like New York or other international cities, every minute there is a killing. The traffic in Beijing is the biggest problem. But there's nothing I would complain about here," he said.

China and Somalia established diplomatic relations in 1960. China has provided Somalia with various types of economic assistance since 1963. In 1970 and 1971, Somalia and other African countries submitted the motion to restore China's seat at the UN.



Photos by Tian Yufeng

Briefs

China helps Zimbabwe to renovate national sports stadium

The official ground-breaking ceremony for a project to refurbish the Zimbabwe National Sports Stadium has been held in the country's capital city of Harare.

Renovation work is expected

to be completed within 20 months, at a cost of US\$5.8 million, money that came in a grant provided by the Chinese government to Zimbabwe.

Burundi calls for more investment from China

Burundian President Pierre Nkurunziza said Wednesday that Burundi will adopt an opening-up

policy and welcome more investment from Chinese enterprises.

Nkurunziza visited Shenzhen on Wednesday. At a meeting with deputy mayor Liu Yingli, Nkurunziza said Burundi is striving for economic development and will adopt an opening-up policy in agriculture and mining.

The president also voiced his hope that advanced technology from China could be brought in,

and to see more investment in Burundi from Chinese companies.

(Xinhua)

Ten of Africa's best films on Beijing screens

By Qiu Jiaoning

The French Culture Center will hold an Africa Film Festival this month, screening an amazing selection of films to celebrate the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation.

The new generation of African filmmakers has focused on their motherland. They try a different approach to reality, which includes them in the international cinema's diversity. So the audience can appreciate Africa in these films rich in emotions, music and colors, in the French Culture Center everyday but Thursday between 6pm and 8pm.



Prospects for economic cooperation



By Qiu Jiaoning

As the trade ties between China and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) increase, Mr Charles Mumbala Nzanku, ambassador of the Democratic Republic of Congo to China, said that economic cooperation between China and DRC can expect a pleasant future.

Mr Nzanku said that both China and Africa attach great importance to the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation. Both African ambassadors in China and the Chinese side have made full preparations for it and put forward many good suggestions. "China-Africa cooperation will focus on economic links," said the ambassador.

DRC boasts a vast potential of forest resources and mineral wealth, which will bring further mutual benefits if our two sides continue cooperation, according to the ambassador. "When visiting Shandong and Dongguan, I was very glad to find that some local furniture factories were using timber from the DRC," said Mr Nzanku. The ambassador wants more Chinese people to invest in the DRC and promises a continually improving investment environment for them.

The trade volume between the two countries in 2005 stood at US\$ 225 million, of which China's exports were valued at US\$ 50 million, and imports US\$ 175 million.

Economic cooperation between China and the Democratic Republic of Congo can expect a pleasant future.

The major exports from China are machines, light industrial products, and major imports are copper, cobalt and zinc ores.

The DRC is also rich in tourism resources. "The government is making full efforts to develop local tourism. Some Chinese people have established restaurants in DRC, where Chinese visitors can enjoy our local fish specialties," said Mr Nzanku. "Although China and DRC have maintained a good relationship, not many Chinese people know our country. I hope more and more Chinese people can know and visit the DRC in future," said the ambassador.

Cooperation between China and the DRC have been enhanced this year. The ambassador said that China helped the DRC to build a hospital in Kinshasa, the capital, earlier this year. The modern hospital built by Chinese workers is the first in a district which is home to one-third of Kinshasa's six million population. The Chinese government has also granted scholarships for 11 Congolese students to study in Chinese universities this year, said the ambassador.

The DRC, the third largest country in Africa, is situated in Central Africa. The 2,733 mile long Congo River lies mostly within the territory of the country. The culture of the DRC reflects the diversity of its hundreds of ethnic groups and their different ways of life. Although there are many languages spoken in the country, the linguistic variety is bridged both by the use of French and the intermediary languages Kongo, Tshiluba, Swahili, and Lingala.



Mozambique wants to deepen ties

Ties with China have developed on the basis of 'win-win cooperation' for mutual benefit.

By He Jianwei

Mr Antonio Inacio Junior, the Republic of Mozambique's ambassador to the China told *Beijing Today* that he has high hopes for the 'Forum on China-Africa Cooperation'.

Mozambique was one of the founders for the Forum. "It's important for Mozambique to attend the event. We will bring a high-level delegation to the meeting, including our ministers of public affairs, commerce, and energy. There are in all 60 people in our delegation," said the ambassador.

Mr Inacio was full of praise for economic and trade relations between China and Mozambique. "They have developed on the basis of 'win-win cooperation' for mutual benefit," he said. Chinese entrepreneurs have invested in Mozambique in rail, health, housing and other programs, he added.

Exchanges of high-level visits are frequent between the two countries. "Both President Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao have made visits to Africa. And since 1997, over 40 African heads of state have visited China, which has contributed to enhancing bilateral and multilateral dialogues," said the ambassador.

China's development has been very rapid, and the Asian nations' experiences are some-

thing Mozambique is eager to learn from, said the Ambassador.

Mr Inacio said the Mozambican community in China is small, with just a few students and embassy staff. In all 38 students from Mozambique are studying here, in the fields of technology, agriculture, medicine, and engineering, with some also in Macao, like Mozambique a former Portuguese colony.

Talks are ongoing about Mozambique becoming a permitted destination for Chinese tourists, said the ambassador. He recommended his country's beautiful scenery to Chinese tourists, saying to tour from the south, via the capital Maputo, to the north of Mozambique would allow them to enjoy coastal landscapes, underwater sports, safari parks, and fantastic beaches.

The ambassador said Mozambique welcomes more Chinese investment, both public and private, especially in the fields of infrastructure and agriculture.



Photos by Tian Yufeng

Libya: an untapped market

'I am satisfied with the smooth development of bilateral ties in recent years. Both sides have seen more mutual visits by groups of entrepreneurs and investors.'

By Chu Meng

Beijing Today (BT): What do you feel is most important to maintain and strengthen mutual understanding?

Mr Mustafa Elguelushi, ambassador of The People's Bureau of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya (Elguelushi): I believe enhancing cultural communication between youngsters is important at the moment. There are only 25 Libyan students in China at present, studying computing or natural sciences. And not so many Chinese students know much about Libya.

But in recent years, we have seen more cultural exchange programs, sending Chinese youngsters to study and live in Libya and bringing Libyan youngsters to China.

More and more Chinese volunteers from universities can be seen at all kinds of international conferences or sports events in Libya. Libyan youngsters would also like to do the same.

BT: In what fields does Libya have the biggest potential to cooperate?

Elguelushi: Libya is an untapped market. The two governments agreed to support and encourage bilateral cooperation in

oil production, investment, infrastructure, and tourism, and to explore new ways to widen cooperation.

I am satisfied with the smooth development of bilateral ties in recent years. Both sides have seen more mutual visits by groups of entrepreneurs and investors. Bilateral trade volume jumped 130 percent last year. The first Libyan direct-invested company was set up in Shanghai last year.

Opportunities exist in almost every sector. Libya is rich in oil, and top energy companies are expanding there. But other possibilities are emerging, with tourism among the first of these. Libya has many archaeological sites and 1,100 miles of undeveloped beachfront attractions that will lure visitors and investors alike.

By 2010, Libya expects to have a million tourists a year, three times the present number. Hotels are expanding our capital Tripoli. Bus services are expanding. We are essentially a brand-new country.



Zimbabwe: an example of cooperation

'Now we are buying from China, and getting more for less. The quality is good, and the price is good.'

By Jiang Xubo

"We have doubled the total trade between Zimbabwe and China in the last three years. And we are expecting to doubling this figure again in the next 24 months," said Mr Christopher Mutsvanga, the African nation's ambassador to China, on the eve of Forum on China and Africa Cooperation. "And we believe we will be a shining example of cooperation between China and Africa."

Agriculture and mining industry have been most fruitful areas of cooperation, the ambassador said. Mr Mutsvanga has been in his present post since 2002.

"We are one of the richest countries in terms of minerals, platinum, diamond, and copper. And China is the biggest market for our minerals," said Mr Mutsvanga. "China is a big buyer of our tobacco. All the best known cigarette brands in China, including Hongtashan and Zhonghua, use tobacco from Zimbabwe, at least by 11 to 15 percent," he added.

"We are buying a lot of equipment from China. We are buying locomotives from Dalian, and rolling stock from Changchun. And we are buying a lot of buses from Jiangsu," said Mr Mutsvanga. "We used to buy from western countries, but they are very expensive. Now we are buying from China, and getting more for less. The quality is good, and the price is good."

In the ambassador's view, economic cooperation between China and Africa

has changed the international market.

"The only markets were Europe and America. They organized and distorted the market place, so if Africa wanted to negotiate, we were told we could take it or leave it," said the ambassador. "But now China has come into the picture, there is no more distortion in the market. There is greater competition, and a very big and powerful competitor. It is good for the international market."

The two countries' economic cooperation will also stimulate the development of a very large sub-region including South Africa, Angola, Zambia, and Tanzania, according to the ambassador.

A large Zimbabwean delegation, including President Robert Mugabe, the first lady Madame Grace Mugabe, the Minister of Foreign Affairs SS Mumbengegwi, and the Minister of Economic Development REN Gumbo, are here for the Beijing Summit of the forum, seeking further economic cooperation between the two countries.

"This is going to be a very important meeting, because the discussions are between friends and brothers, though the distance between the two continents is so great," said Mr Mutsvanga.



Photo by Hao Yi

China turns to sea water to ease drought



Large swaths of China suffer from water shortages and drought.

CFP Photo

October 31

Drought-stricken China, where millions of people are without regular access to drinking water, is turning to desalinated sea water to ease the crisis.

Apart from widespread drought, factories have ignored pollution hazards and dumped toxic industrial waste into rivers and lakes in China, home to one-fifth of the world's population but only 7 per cent of its water resources.

"China is expected to desalinate

800,000 to 1 million cubic metres of sea water per day and use 55 billion cubic metres annually by 2010," the State Development and Reform Commission said, detailing China's ninth five-year plan.

China desalinated 120,000 cubic metres of sea water per day last year.

It was not immediately clear how China, which is also desperately short of fuel, would power the energy-hungry desalination plants.

More than 600 medium- and large-sized cities in China were now suffering "serious water shortages", Water Resources Minister Wang Shucheng said this month.

China is investing billions in a project to transfer water from its lush south to the arid north.

The so-called western route of the project could involve harnessing rivers cascading from the Tibetan highlands in the Himalayas to quench the thirst of Qinghai province and other poor western areas.

Interview with the editor

It is about a drought, and we are dealing with a drought too, so I think our readers would be interested. But I don't have too much information about your water plan, I do not know if it will work or not.

Australia also suffers from the lack of clean water, and we are fighting a severe drought too. In my country, the government has provided support for farmers to fight the drought. And cities have put restrictions on water use.

Simon Johanson

News editor, newsdesk,

www.theage.com.au.

(By Jiang Xubo)

Read Beijing Youth Daily every morning
Read the Mirror in the evening
Ten newspapers and four periodicals
New editions every year

It's Your Move

订报电话 67756666 订报网址 www.bjxhm.com.cn

UK mulls ban on flag burning



Flag-burning has long been a contentious issue in the US will the UK follow suit?

CFP Photo

The Guardian
Scotland Yard yesterday warned it will get tough with rowdy and unruly demonstrations amid growing concern that extremists are being given too much opportunity to create disorder.

As an assistant commissioner suggested making the burning

of flags during protests illegal, senior officers and leading figures in the Metropolitan police authority have resolved to take a firmer hand in determining how demonstrations are conducted and where they can be held.

The catalyst appears to have been a demonstration outside Westminster Cathedral last

month during which activists from the al-Ghuraba group pestered churchgoers as they sought to enter the building. Demonstration organizer Anjem Choudary called for the Pope to face "capital punishment".

Officers were reluctant to intervene because they did not want to be accused of interfering

with a Muslim protest during a time of great sensitivity. However, Len Duvall, the chairman of the Metropolitan Police Authority, said the force was determined to send a message. "People have the right to [demonstrate] but they must do so peacefully and without causing undue offence."

The change in police tactics

coincides with discussions about the adequacy of police powers to deal with a growing number of high-profile, emotionally charged events. Yesterday assistant commissioner Tarique Ghaffur said the suggestion that flag-burning should be outlawed had already been passed to Lord Goldsmith, the attorney general.

Comments:

Freedom of speech, I support, yes; but freedom to disrespect the national symbols of any countries should be considered 'beneath contempt' and should be outlawed!

It's a weak civil declaration of war against your own or another country. It's worse when it's to your own country.

— brett trent

I completely agree with the Scottish officials. Most people bear allegiance to their flags and have their children fighting for that very same flag and their nation. Burning a flag is similar to having someone spit on your face and mock a loved one. I believe flag burning should be banned in every country not just in Scotland. However, burning their flag in retaliation is

not the answer, because it's not worth stooping to their level. You want to win an argument: Show thumbs up when someone gives you the middle finger.

— LRM

I agree that flag burning should be made illegal. Saying that it is just a piece of cloth is absurd. That 'cloth' is a symbol of our freedom and of our country. To burn a flag is not only a disre-

spectful gesture, but a statement that says that country is a tyrant. Such acts should be outlawed.

— Matthew D.

I agree 100 percent. There should be a law against burning any country's flag. Sock them with a good fine or throw them in jail. Hopefully they will wise up and show some respect.

— Charlie R

Flag burning is senseless, and

does serve to incite ill feelings. However, if the media didn't grab it and run, it wouldn't have the effect desired by the burning parties. While many occurrences are newsworthy, if some judgment were used in what to make public, the hatred would not have the chance to grow. It's a shame that strife is what makes most people sit up and take notice instead of positive accomplishment. — Al B

Weekly topics

Daily Telegraph (UK)

1. Massive blow for London Olympics
2. MPs call for more police patrols on roads
3. Raids after woman burnt in bus attack
4. RAF jet downed by US team

'in panic'

5. Police admit errors at aristocrat's trial
New York Times (USA)

1. Military charts movement of conflict in Iraq toward chaos
2. National battle over abortion focuses on South Dakota vote
3. Working mothers find some

peace on the road

4. Justices weigh limits on punitive damages

5. As vote nears, stances on war set off sparks

Sydney morning herald (AUS)

1. Qantas 'sorry' over NZ insulin blunder
2. Talks not enough for N Korea:

Downer

3. Bus driver freed from wreck

4. Irish bar staff accuse two other Aussies

5. ING to sponsor Australian F1 Grand Prix

- Guardian Unlimited (UK)
1. Blair's Syria move fails to impress

2. 35 years for obsessive loner who killed family of four

3. O'Leary pooh-poohs green tax idea

4. Vermont poised to elect America's first socialist senator

5. Father Convicted in Genital Mutilation

(By Huang Daohen)

N

W

BEIJING TODAY

Winter Promotion

nglish



Subscribe for one year: ¥104.00, and choose either:

1. 3.3 fashion plaza coupon worth RMB100 yuan (available for the first 150 subscribers).
2. Three-month China ClubFootball membership (available for the first 500 subscribers).
3. One week free trial card for O-Zone Fitness Club (worth RMB 380 yuan and available for the first 500 subscribers).

Add: Floor 6, Zhubang 2000 Building, Phase 2, No.99 Balizhuang Xili, Chaoyang District

Tel: 8586 5577

If you do not want to take up any of the offers, pay just: RMB 88.00 for 13 months subscription.



Subscription Promotion

Subscription Hotline: 010-6590 2626
btsubscription@ynet.com
Promotion ends on 31st December, 2006

Visit Beijing: enjoy a home stay in Hutong

By Chen Shahsa

This is the third time Kirk McDonald has visited Beijing, but it's the first time he's enjoyed a home stay in a hutong. "It was a dream of mine, but for a long time I've been looking forward to doing it and no-one seemed to provide the service," McDonald said.

Fortunately, a hutong tour group in Houhai recently brought him into a hutong citizen's home, which had operated a home stay service for nearly two years. "I enjoy living here, it's quite comfortable," McDonald said.

The courtyard was quite old. According to Wang

residents also plan to open home stay services in their courtyards. Bai Xiguang, who lived in Bei Xinqiao area, is one. "We don't want to move to highrise apartment blocks, but the refit fees for courtyards are quite high," Bai Xiguang said. She finds the home stay service a good way to solve her problems. According to Hua Xinmin, a French - Chinese lady who worked as a hutong protection volunteer, the home stay service can be a good way



Guangxi, the house owner, she planned to refit the house years ago, but lacked money. Then, her son studying in Canada suggested she open a home stay service like those in western countries. "I find it's a good way to use the spare room to earn money," said Wang Guangxi. Since then hundreds of foreigners have visited her home.

Now, McDonald is enjoying his time as a Beijinger, living in houhai and chatting with hutong residents. Every morning, he sits in the courtyard to eat breakfast prepared by the house owners. Wang Guangxi offers bread and coffee to her guests every morning, and some Chinese food for dinner. There are at most six beds offered to visitors each time, with a private bathroom and a shared kitchen.

Apart from Wang Guangxi, some other hutong

to protect courtyards. She also suggested more citizens offer this service during the Olympics. "It is quite simple, and we only need some special people to collect information from citizens and then help visitors," Hua Xinmin said. Her suggestions were mentioned to the National People's Congress in 2005.

Courtyards available for home stay:

1, Wang Guangxi's home: No.12 DaJinsi lane, Gulou Street.

US\$29 per day for one person.

Email to jimmymjing@hotmail.com.

2, Bai Xiguang's home: No.63 Bai Baokeng lane, Beixinqiao street, Dongcheng District.

Call a 81625205 and negotiate price. You will be able to speak Chinese.

Photos provided by Bai Xiguang

1 An American friend of mine read your article about the female prison and she wanted to visit that place. Can you tell me whether it's open to foreign visitors?

The female criminal prison authorities told *Beijing Today* that random foreign visitors working in Beijing can ask his organization to apply for a visit. The organization should come out with a written application with an explanation for the visit and submit it to the Beijing Foreign Affairs Bureau. The prison is not open to tourists.

2 I want to know whether it is true that most Chinese young people, who are over 18 years old, still live with their parents.

First of all, it is not true that all western young people choose to move out their parents' house and live independently. Some Chinese young people start renting a place to live by themselves or share with other roommates. And some prefer living with their parents. Many Chinese families feel that their only child may find a companion in so doing. A 30-year-old, who married a Beijing girl. His wife still prefers living with her parents as told *Beijing Today* that she wants to save money to offer the down payment with her husband for mortgaging an apartment and living with parents means a proper diet is guaranteed.

3 In China, do parents pay for their children's tuition at university as well as money for their living?

For most Chinese students, the answer is yes. China's program for bank loans to students is aimed at students whose parents cannot afford the costs. Also, most part-time jobs for college students are badly paid, which means most students do not have enough information or channels to find a part-time job that can balance their study and income.

4 I moved to Beijing in fall and needed to buy contact lens solution. There are lots of brands in the stores, do you think that are safe to use?

Beijing Health Bureau investigated 10 kinds of contact lens solution products in the market and found four had certain bacteria. *Beijing Today* recommends you do not buy these four:

Alcon's Opti-free multi-purpose solution, Liangjie multi-plus solution, Hydron multi-purpose solution and Baoshining Protein-removal solution.

(By Wei Ying)

The freedom of the bicycle

By Jiang Xubo

Commuters trapped in traffic jams could turn to renting bicycles thanks to a new service available at more than a dozen chain bicycle stores, mainly located near crowded sites along the capital's second ring road, including Beihai Park and the Drum Tower.

For customers who rent bicycles for less than four hours, the price is five yuan per hour. The charge for half a day (up to four

hours) is 10 yuan (US\$1.25). And for 20 yuan (US\$2.5), customers can ride the bicycles for eight hours. But a deposit of 500 yuan, refundable when the bikes are returned, is required from these temporary cyclists. Also, renting customers have to return the bicycles to the same store where they rented them.

A VIP card for long term renting could save customers this inconvenience. The card costs 500 yuan (US\$63), but

400 yuan (US\$50) of it is refundable as a deposit, and the rest is charged as a service fee for a whole year. Cardholders can also cancel the service before it expires and get their deposit back. Holders who have used the service for less than a week are treated as temporary renters. Those who have owned the card for a week will be charged 70 yuan (US\$9) as service fee. Sixty yuan (US\$7.5) is the charge for owning the

membership for more than one week but less than a month. And customers who have used the bikes for more than a month will only get their deposit back.

This VIP card is available at all 17 stores of Beijing Bicycle Rental Company. ID cards or passports are necessary for the VIP card's application. The service is launched this month in cooperation with the government.

For further information, please call the center at 96156.

Star spangle

The New York City Ballet

By Chu Meng

What happens when the choreographic torch is passed to a new generation? The answer was on display Saturday evening as America's most famous ballet company, the New York City Ballet, presented a series of classic performances on its debut in China at the Beijing Exhibition Theater.

In 1933 Lincoln Kirstein invited George Balanchine, a young Russian choreographer, to start a new ballet school in New York. The partnership would eventually blossom into the New York City Ballet, which pioneered the art in America. Balanchine created a fresh, bold repertoire with the help of Jerome Robbins and others, and brought up generations of leggy, virtuoso dancers. Today, City Ballet remains one of the world's finest dance companies, with an active repertoire of more than 150 works. Peter Martins, a dashing blonde dancer who personified Balanchine's first masterpiece *Apollo* in the 1970s, is now the company's Ballet Master.

City Ballet brought plenty of American swagger to its performance in Beijing. The program features two works by Balanchine: *Who Cares?* – a frolicking piece set to music by George Gershwin, and *Stars and Stripes*, a patriotic romp to music by John Philip Sousa, an American composer. There is also Peter Martins's *A Fool for You*, with music by Ray Charles. Martins's son, Nilas Martins, is among the dancers gracing the stage. As well as two other classic pieces of *Don Quixote* and *Tschaikovsky Pas de Deux*.

Stars and Stripes

The second piece of the night *Stars and Stripes* started to brighten my eyes. Again, Charles Askegard led an alarmingly fast *Stars*. The first two 'campaigns', all girls, led by the delightful blonde sparrow, Jenifer Ringer, and the somewhat gamier Julie Diana who seems to have misplaced her grand jete, both struggled in places to keep up with Askegard's relentless baton.

I felt like personally saluting the boys' campaign: this crop of a couple of fairly new dancers seemed to thrive on rapidity, especially as led by the indefatigable sparkplug of Charles Askegard. I find few things in ballet more rousing than a really crisp, airborne performance of this *Thunder and Gladiators* campaign.

I marvel at Balanchine's clever structure, and how he works ever-larger formations of men in brilliant counterpoint to Sousa's rhythms, as in where he has five men leap into half-turning backwards cabrioles, one pair, then another, then the final man beating their legs on successive beats. The four successive

double-tours from the ensemble went off without a hitch. Balanchine was always very clever about carefully rationing unison.

In the pas de deux of Jenifer Ringer and Charles Askegard, Jenifer again displayed her awe-inspiring technique, tossing off successive double pirouettes on each foot and multiple fouettés as if they were nothing. Charles, making his New York debut in this role, proved a strong and spirited partner for Jenifer, and threw himself into his solos with surprising brio, amusing the audience by pulling his long legs up, froglike, into bounding Cechetti changements, and hurling himself through some impressive turns in second.

Putting the jazz into the ballet

If asked, few ballet habitués would immediately associate jazz with classical ballet, but twentieth-century ballet choreographers have regularly found its fascinating rhythms a seductive prod to movement inventiveness. Jazz was born on the wrong side of the tracks in the red-light districts of American cities during the roaring twenties. About four centuries earlier, ballet had grown up in the propriety-conscious palaces of kings, where manners dictated all.

Yet classical ballet choreographers and composers of New York City Ballet have been interested in and influenced by jazz rhythms and phrasing from the time the sassy counterculture music muscled its way into mainstream consciousness in a piece *A Fool for You*.

Choreographer's Peter Martins's *A Fool for You* is a loving homage to the great popular singer Ray Charles, and it is the only Ray Charles ballet in existence. A modern ballet set to 12 songs performed on stage by Ray Charles, his orchestra, and the Raelettes.

Ray Charles was born in 1930. As a pianist, singer, composer, arranger, he is perhaps best known for his renditions of *Georgia on My Mind*, *Hit the Road Jack*, *I Can't Stop Loving You*, and many other songs. As Ray's most popular ballet piece, *A Fool for You* was first premiered in 1988 by the New York City Ballet during the American Music Festival.

This much was clear from the three pieces on view: The influence of the company's original guiding force, George Balanchine, as well as that of his longtime associate, Jerome Robbins, can still be felt, yet for better and for worse, the inheritors of their flame – including Peter Martins, now City Ballet's artistic director, Ulysses Dove and, most impressively, Christopher Wheeldon, also are very much artists of their own time.



Who Cares?

Background

New York City Ballet and George Balanchine (1904-1983)

The New York City Ballet is one of the foremost dance companies in the world and was originated and founded by the great choreographer of the century – George Balanchine. In typical American style it claims to be the most legendary and epoch-making ballet troupe in the world. NYCB trains many world-famous ballet stars. Many of their dances have become classics, performed by famous ballet companies

throughout the world.

"Ballet is important and significant. First of all, it is a pleasure," the founding choreographer, George Balanchine, said throughout his artistic life. He is one of the Century's foremost choreographers, and the founders of the American ballet era, especially famed by founding the New York City Ballet. His work formed a bridge between classical and modern ballet.

Robert Lomdardo, the managing director of NYCB said in Beijing last Saturday, 'The



ed dancers

Ballet comes to Beijing

t, yes, but
ng
always said
of the 20th
and one of
ra, espe-
k City
een classi-

director of
You could

see one of Balanchine's masterpieces even back in 1960s a hundred times, and every time you saw it, you would always find something new and inspired. You never get bored with his classic ballet, because he dissected every single movement, creatively integrated his music with every segment and then recomposed them all together."

Balanchine was born in Saint Petersburg, Russia. His father was one of the founders of the Georgian Opera. In 1913 at the age of nine, Balanchine enrolled in the Imperial Ballet

School, the principal school of the Imperial Ballet, where he studied under Pavel Gerdt. While still in his teens, Balanchine choreographed his first work, a pas de deux. At the age of 19, with fellow dancers, he formed a small ensemble, the Young Ballet.

Balanchine served as resident choreographer for the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo from 1944 to 1946, but soon formed a new dance company, the Ballet Society with the help of Lincoln Kirstein. With the success of several performances, the company was offered the opportunity to

work at the New York City Center for Music and Drama as the resident company. With that arrangement in place, the Ballet Society became the New York City Ballet in 1948.

Balanchine created an estimated 425 ballets during his life, some 75 of which remain in the repertory of the New York City Ballet and other companies today. Now, the Balanchine Rescue Project, an ambitious undertaking by the Balanchine Foundation, aims to recover as much forgotten Balanchine choreography as possible, with performance the eventual goal.



A Fool for You



Tchiakovsky Pas de deux



Stars and Stripes pas de deux



Review

Jce breaking debut is so quiet and cautious

By Yu Shanshan

The long awaited New York City Ballet's debut in China – we have plenty of reasons to expect a gala of Balanchine works. And they did choose them for Beijing's show, after being invited to Shanghai's art festival. The scenario includes *Who Cares?*, *Stars and Stripes pas de deux*, *Tchiakovsky Pas de deux*, which are all famous Balanchine works that even new ballet buffs will have heard about.

The show itself opened on October 28 at Beizhan Theatre, where most foreign ballet groups choose to take to the stage in Beijing, like the Begart Ballet, the American all-star ballet troupe, the Paris Opera Ballet (POB), and a bunch of Russian ballet companies, which gave just a lukewarm feeling. Compared with the huge luxurious cast POB brought to China last autumn, the City Ballet only brought along seven dancers, though all of them bear the title of 'Principal Dancer'.

The stage is without adornment but lights. To start off with *Who Cares?* maybe a clever choice, but I don't understand why they also included *Don Q Pas De Deux*. Were they worried that Chinese people would tire of the modern ballet so they included classical ones they knew the audience would know and like?

But anyway, all the first four works were performed fairly well. They did a job good, but there wasn't much to get the blood going. NY City Ballet's dancers don't have such slim figures as the National Ballet of China's dancers, but they show the real side of ballet, that it's not about the figure, but about the spirit, being happy; controlled yet free.

From my personal point of view, the piece that I most enjoyed was the final one, *A Fool for You* in which three pairs of dancers depict a very American feeling, to the songs by Ray Charles. Boys in dark blue shirts and trousers, and girls in light pink, green and dark blue shirts, created a scene that really made the audience smile.

When will they come back with a bigger retinue of people? When they do, I hope they will also bring with them some more of Balanchine's classics.

Interview with the principal dancer

Nilas Martins, principal dancer of the New York City Ballet, is now choreographing new ballets and composing his own music. He has also formed The Nilas Martins Dance Company, and the non-profit, Nilas Martins Dance Foundation. This Foundation sponsors The Nilas Martins Dance Company and commissions new choreographies and musical scores. He is currently regarded as the optimal inheritor of the essence of the New York City Ballet.

"What attracts me very much is that there are really no set rules here. George Balanchine's music is essential of course. His main spirit of choreographing was to break audience's readiness of the set movements and postures of classic ballet. Instead, he was really good at throwing out continuous surprises, and playing a little trick. He fused informal and casual pop tone and beats into formal ballet," this prince-like ballet dancer told me during the rehearsal break at the Beijing Exhibition Theater.

Mr Martins was trained at the Royal Danish Theater in Copenhagen, which stages drama, ballet, opera, and musicals. He became a soloist in 1991 and was promoted to principal dancer in 1993.

Born in Copenhagen, he received his early dance training at the Royal Danish Ballet School starting at the age of seven. As a student he performed with the Royal Danish Ballet.

In 1984, he moved to New York and enrolled at the School of American Ballet (SAB), the official school of the New York City Ballet. In June 1986 he became an apprentice with the New York City Ballet, and in September of the same year he was made a member of the Company's corps de ballet.

Since joining the New York City Ballet, Mr Martins has danced in dozens of George Balanchine's ballets including: *Apollo*, *The Nutcracker*, *Swan Lake* and *Tschaikovsky Pas de Deux*.



(Left and above) A Fool for You

Photos by Ye Jin

Snow

By Orhan Pamuk

Synopsis: In *Snow*, Ka is a poet who returns to Turkey after 10 years in Frankfurt. He goes to the northeastern city of Kars, to report on recent suicides among girls there and to look up an old classmate now separated from her husband. Kars is a town caught in the increasing controversy between secularists and Islamists, and has a newspaper that reports the news of the next day. Ka meets an infamous terrorist, witnesses an assassination, and yet at the same time, finds himself reinvigorated as a man and a poet. While the town is snow-bound, a theatre production becomes a military coup. When Orhan Pamuk's novel was released in his native Turkey, it angered both westernized Turks and Islamists alike – www.reviewsofbooks.com



A controversial read indeed. So how was it that Pamuk managed to anger so many and still win the Nobel Prize?

The author's high artistry and fierce politics take our minds further into the age's crisis than any commentator could, and convince us of every character's intensity, making *Snow* a vital book in both senses of the word. Orhan Pamuk is the sort of writer for whom the Nobel Prize was invented

– **Tom Holland, *Daily Telegraph***

I thought Pamuk always claims to be apolitical? How does he manage that with a novel like this?

Pamuk has claimed that he is not a political writer, but he will have difficulty defending that position with *Snow*, which dramatizes many of the issues facing the Middle East today: the separation of church and state, poverty, modernization, and the influence of the west. The book's compelling side drama of a writer struggling to remain apolitical is nearly occluded in the blizzard of themes. In time, it would be nice to have the pleasure of reading *Snow* not simply as the political novel it certainly is, but as a work of art.

– **John Freeman, www.villagevoice.com**

No wonder he touched a few raw nerves. Would it be fair to say that it takes guts to write about these subjects in a country like Turkey?

If at times *Snow* seems attenuated and opaque, we should not forget that in Turkey, insofar as it partakes of the Islamic world's present murderous war of censori-

ous fanaticism versus free speech and truth-seeking, to write with honest complexity about such matters as head scarves and religious belief takes courage. The near-assassination of Islam's last winner (of the Nobel Prize for Literature) must cross his mind. To produce a major work so frankly troubled and provocatively bemused and, against the grain of the author's usual anti-quarian bent, entirely contemporary in its setting and subjects, took the courage that art sometimes visits upon even its most detached practitioners.

– **John Updike, *The New Yorker***

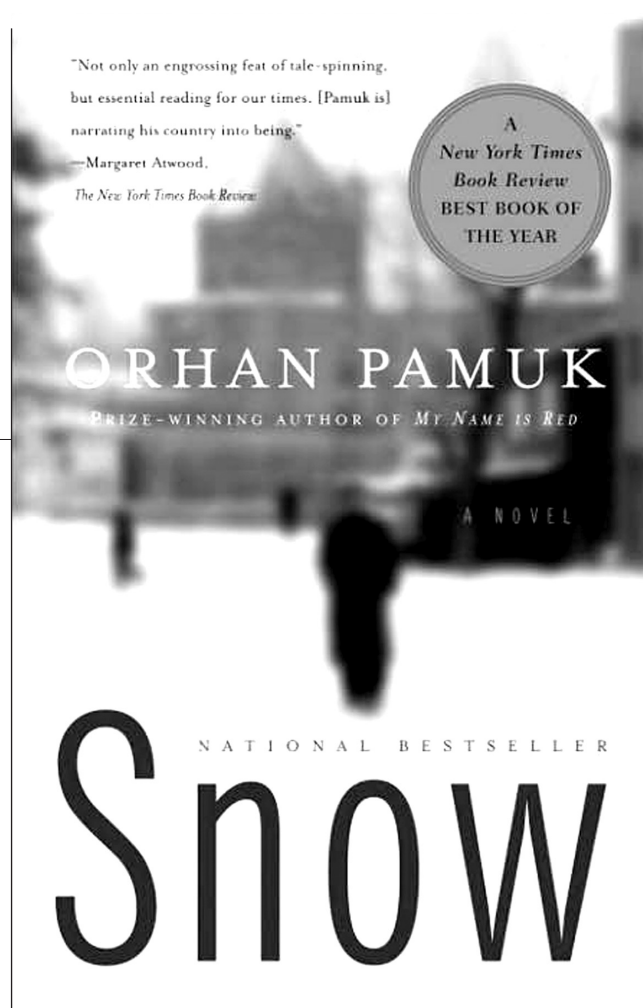
How does Pamuk's characterization rate in this, his latest novel?

Pamuk's protagonist is a man of melancholy and secrets in a sea of other characters who are tossed about by uncertainties. An Islamist student warns Ka: 'I'd like you to tell your readers not to believe anything you say about me, anything you say about any of us. No one could understand us from so far away.' So the players in the story, including Ka, are cast in a shadow of indeterminacy – which makes the novel even more compelling. Still, Pamuk manages to give voice to everyone involved: reactionaries, terrorists, liberals, fundamentalists.

– **Sarah Emily Miano, *The Observer***

It sounds like a method that works. How far does he delve into Turkey's post empire angst?

Ka's pose as a journalist allows Pamuk to put on display a wide variety of opinions. Those not living in the shrunken remains of former



empires may find it hard to imagine the mix of resentful entitlement (We ought to be powerful!), shame (What did we do wrong?), blame (Whose fault is it?) and anxiety about identity (Who are we really?) that takes up a great deal of headroom in such places, and thus in *Snow*.

– **Margaret Atwood, *New York Times***

Who would like this novel?

Pamuk is a good antidote to the easy answers that so much modern literature offers; if you're a fan of Dostoyevsky, Fowles, Hesse, George Saunders or any other author with the guts to muck with your mind, read Pamuk. *Snow* will make you feel the arguments surrounding fundamentalism as a situation of murky grays, where the only thing black is the night, and the only thing white is the snow.

– **Laurel Maury, *San Francisco Chronicle***

Does this Nobel Prize winning novel have any faults?

There are literary judgments that some readers will question. The first is to omit Ka's poems. The green book has been lost or stolen and what remain are Ka's notes on how he came to write his 19 poems in Kars and how they might be arranged on the crystalline model of a snowflake. That is quite as dull as it sounds: really, in a book so expansive and light, the only dull passages. Incidentally, what verse

there is in the book, copied from the wall of the teashop, is worth reading.

– **James Buchan, *The Guardian***

James, it sounds like you're getting picky. Let's get a final word from Ron...

What a pleasure it is, therefore, when we come across some really fine fiction now and again. From its opening words, Orhan Pamuk's new novel *Snow* stands out from the contemporary slush. "The silence of snow, thought the man sitting just behind the bus driver. If this were the beginning of a poem, he would have called what he felt inside him 'the silence of snow'." For the remainder of the novel, this image of the snow as a quality of feeling is developed in the most masterly way. Without ever drifting into the doldrums of meditation, Pamuk has managed to write a novel of ideas, in the form of a highly dramatic story. This he achieves by a skilful, and very natural, blending of the techniques of poetry and prose. Not that what he writes is poetic – always a death-knell, indeed a death-sentence, for poetry and prose alike. Rather, as well as telling his story through the more customary means of character and plot, he argues the narrative through image. Thanks to this, *Snow* becomes a novel of real depth.

– **Ron Butlin, *Sunday Herald***

(By Tom Mackenzie)

Local shelf

Stick Out Your Tongue

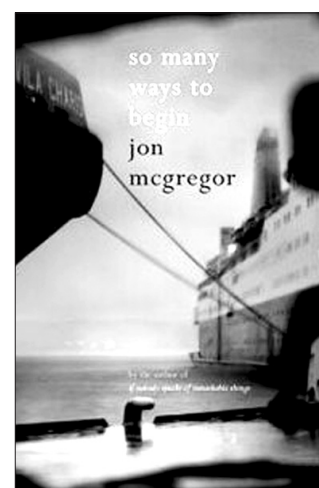
By Ma Jian
Chatto & Windus, 224 pages, 150 yuan

Ma Jian's *Stick Out Your Tongue* takes you into the journeys of a Chinese man who wanders through Tibet after the demise of his marriage. He meets various characters and witnesses various events that are unique to the Tibetan world.

The Tibet that is presented is a stark and harsh reality that is rather different from the images that one may have. The lives of the nomadic people that the main character meets are of seeming chaos as they struggle with their own issues.

In the face of this, the Chinese wanderer gains a unique insight to the Tibetan culture, and experiences much that is both shocking and beautiful. The hospitality of the nomads was striking, as was some of their dietary choices. Of particular interest was their funeral rites, performed by removing the flesh from the corpse and feeding it to birds of prey.

So Many Ways to Begin



By Jon McGregor
Bloomsbury, 352 pages, 165 yuan

Coventry Museum curator David Carter – a man driven constantly to seek the thrill of old stories made new – cannot help but wish for more: that his wife would still be the ambitious and sparkling Scottish girl he once found so irresistible, that his job could live up to the promise it once held, that his daughter's arrival will bring her parents closer together. But Auntie Julia's careless words years earlier have left David restless with the knowledge that his whole life has been constructed around an untruth. So he attempts to begin anew, cataloguing the joys and disappointments, the intersecting lives around him. There are so many ways to begin, and to live; so many ways to love, and to not love, and to end. Against the backdrop of post-WW2 Britain, Jon McGregor's lyrical, intimate novel explores what happens when our lives fail to take the turns we expect, and the ways we learn to let go of the people we might have been.

(By Han Manman)

What do you know about black-eyed peas? And I don't mean the hip-hop group that has just performed in Beijing. These legumes, also called cowpeas, are a staple of west African cooking and are used in about every dish from stews to starches to snacks like *kosai* and *moyin-moyin*.

African cuisine is growing in popularity as immigrants bring the dishes to the world. If you take a safari tour from Kenya, your culinary experience will be much different

from eating at the French and British influenced restaurants of Johannesburg, tasting *Doro Wat* of Ethiopia, Portuguese inspired spices of Angola and Mozambique, or the coconut and fish stews of Nairobi.

Yet, all are part of African cuisine.

Northern Muslim Africa is part of the Mediterranean culinary rim. The restaurants we are going to cover in this page mostly fall under this category.

A taste of mystery



1001 Nights' Shish Tawouk

Photo provided by 1001 Nights

One Thousand and One Nights

By Chu Meng

With Egyptian habits, the 1001 Nights restaurant satisfies those houmos, falafel and schwarma cravings, and provides romantic alfresco dining.

Unlike the busy, crowded sidewalks of Sanlitun Lu, 1001's outdoor seating is along the spacious sidewalk facing Gongti Bei Lu where the noise and dust of the busy street is far away.

The interior feel is cozy without the cramp. Colorful Egyptian tapestries and a collection of coffee urns add rich ethnic touches.

The menu was extensive, but confusing. Some foods are self-explanatory, such as the Aubergine Kebab, Shish Tawouk, or *Babaganouge*. Descriptions of the foods are helpful for the first-timer. Another solution is to ask the staff is what the menu

items are about. When I asked the waiter to describe a particular dish called *Shukaf*, he didn't know himself.

The fun of Arabic food is assembling sandwiches out of the grilled meat skewers, vegetables, dips and pocket pita breads. The houmos with tahini is creamy and garlicky. The cucumber and yogurt dip has a refreshing lemon zip that com-

plimented the grilled meats. Though the vegetable salad was boring old iceberg lettuce, the vinegar dressing was light and tangy.

After quite a wait, the grilled fish arrived albeit dry and bland tasting. The kebob aubergine turned out to consist of succulent grilled eggplant and lamb meatballs. The shukaf turned out to be roast lamb skewer.

Every night after 8 o'clock you can also enjoy traditional belly dancing.

1001 Nights

Where: East end of Gongti Bei Lu, opposite Great Dragon Hotel, northwest corner of Changhong Bridge, Chaoyang

Open: Daily 11am-2am the next day

Tel: 6532 4050

Cost: 200-250 yuan per person

Aladdin's Arabian nights

By Gan Tian

"Oh I come from a land, from a faraway place, where the caravan camels roam... where they cut off your ear if they don't like your face... it's barbaric, but hey, it's Aladdin's restaurant!" This eatery looks like a scene from Disney's cartoon *Aladdin*.

A plate of meat rolls (45 yuan) includes a bowl of tomato and milk soup, a can of drink, and a meat roll. The beef is rolled into toasted flat cakes, with cucumber and coriander leaves, making it a little sour and cool.

If you like something with a



Aladdin's beef roll

bit of a bite try the spicy soup, one of the restaurant's most popular dishes.

Hommos is served with every dish. A paste-like thick sauce made from fermented mashed beans and a squirt of lemon, hommos is possibly the ultimate Arabian dish. If you don't like it

just say "Allah".

Aladdin's Restaurant & Bar

Where: F/1, Disanji Bookstore, 66, North fourth ring west road (Beisihuan Xilu), Haidian

Open: 10am to 10pm

Tel: 6268 0028/0038

Cost: 50-70 yuan per person

Pili Pili: An Egyptian chef lost in Beijing crowds

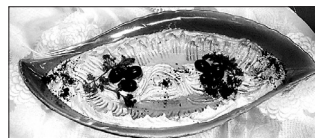
By Chu Meng

If you follow the delicious aromas to the entrance of Pili-Pili restaurant and through the doors past the shishas, clay pots and Chinese waiters and into the kitchen, you will find Egyptian chef Morsehdi Mohamed.

'Pilipili' means 'chili pepper' in Swahili. It was the first African eatery in town. Its exotic ambience have attracted both local and expat diners.

It is actually a bar and restaurant that stages African music and dance shows. There is an 'African Night' every month, when DJs from the continent bring traditional music to the party.

But it's the food that makes you feel like you've stepped onto the shores of Africa for the first time. I was surprised to see the menu offering food from Zanzibar, Tanzania, Kenya and South Africa.



Pili Pili's hommoUs

Photo provided by PiliPili

The restaurant's Egyptian chef, Morsehdi Mohamed, had no idea before coming to China that it would be so hard. "I work every day from 10am to 3 or 4 the

next morning," he said. "I don't get to travel around Beijing."

Mohamed has an even harder time to find the ingredients such as *misteka* (mastic) and *habahan* (cardamom). This means some national dishes, like *molokheyya* and *kaware* (lamb shanks) can't be put on the menu. Not even his beloved *koshari*.

Catching only five hours of sleep a day, Mohamed has very little time to spare, but when

he is free he likes to roam around the city's 68 mosques. The places of worship are a peaceful haven for the 250,000 Muslims in Beijing.

Pili Pili

Where: Nuren jie Road, Laitai Flower Market, Chaoyang (near the end of Star Bar Street)

Open: daily 11am-2am the next day

Tel: 6460 7158

Cost: 200-300 yuan per person

Other African touches

By Chu Meng

A Mystery Restaurant

This restaurant does not even have a name or a telephone number. It is really just a room with old tables and a small stool in front where you eat.

A Liberian girl runs it and most customers are west African.

It is opposite Yashow Market. You walk across the bridge outside the market exit on your left. Walk to the first street, turn right and it is on your left about

20 meters.

It is not so clean but always busy. It serves rice with beef, fish stew and some days serves red beans or fried chicken.

Burbern Bar and Restaurant

If you face Yashow Market,

Sanlitun Area, take the street on your right hand side then walk to the police station at the end of the street and turn right, walk another 50 meters and the restaurant is on your left, the last building on the street.

The menu includes pepper soup with rice, which has mutton entrails; and tripe pepper soup. It also serves barbecue meats. Although it is not a traditional African restaurant, it is popular with west Africans.

Free dish

Order three special dishes at the South West Restaurant (Jia 21, Beitucheng Donglu, Haidian) and you will get a dish for free until November 31. For details, call 6489 5066.

**Free dish**

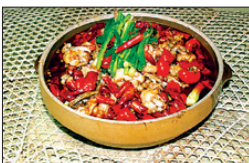
Eat at Chuan Liu Bu Xi restaurant (Shuma Building, 2 Zhongguancun Nandajie, Haidian) and get a free dish until November 30. For details, call 5162 7878.

**20% off**

Eat at the Hu Bei Building restaurant (36 Zhongguancun Nandajie, Haidian) and get 20% off until November 20. For details, call 6217 2288.

**20% off**

Eat at newly opened Fei Teng Yu Xiang restaurant (Cheng Ming Building, Xizhimen, Xicheng) and enjoy 20% off until November 5. For details, call 5190 1778.

**10 yuan voucher**

Spend over 50 yuan at Xi Shu Tou Hua Zhuang restaurant (8 Jianguomennei Dajie, Chaoyang) and get a 10 yuan discount voucher. For details, call 6522 4935.

**80 yuan off**

Spend over 200 yuan at Hua Tang shopping center (108 Beisihuan Donglu, Chaoyang) and enjoy 80 yuan off until November 5. For details, call 6556 5566.

**50% off**

Get up to 50% off selected items at Xi Dan shopping mall (120 Xidan Beidajie, Xicheng) until November 5. For details, call 6656 5588.

**200 yuan voucher**

Spend over 198 yuan at Zhong You shopping center (176 Xidan Beidajie, Xicheng) and get a 200 yuan discount voucher. For details, call 6601 8899.

**50% off**

Eat at Tong Le Wan Hong Kong restaurant (6 Zhongguancun Nandajie, Haidian) on Monday and enjoy 50% off until November 13. For details, call 5158 2121.

**200 yuan voucher**

Spend over 200 yuan at Juntai shopping mall (133 Xidan Beidajie, Xicheng) and get a 200 yuan discount voucher until November 5. For details, call 6611 3553.

**20 yuan voucher**

Spend over 100 yuan at Yi Pin Qing Xuan (16 Dongsanhuan Beilu, Chaoyang) and get a 20 yuan discount voucher until November 13. For details, call 6501 4418.

20% off

Spend over 100 yuan at Jia Shi Hao Bar (10 Xiangshang Jiayuan, Andelu, Xicheng) and enjoy 20% off until November 30. For details, call 6451 1691.

(By Terence Lu)

Send us your discounts & offers.
Email us: bjtoday@ynet.com
or call: 6590 2626

ADVERTISE IN
BEIJING TODAY

PLACE YOUR ADVERT NOW AND
GET INSTANT RESULTS!

Call: Jian Zhong 139 0135 4788
Xiao'ang 133 8106 4865

THE Summit Club
万圣节俱乐部

HAPPY HALLOWEEN

TRICK OR TREAT

Hotel Kunlun's Summit Club presents a special nightly Halloween Set Menu from 25 to 31 October.

RMB 688 Per Person + 15%

中国北京朝阳区新源南路2号 邮政编码: 100004
2 Xin Yuan Nan Lu, Chaoyang District, Beijing 100004 CHINA Tel: 86-10 65903388 Fax: 86-10 65903228 / 65903214
E-mail: kunlunht@public3.bta.net.cn <http://www.hotelkunlun.com>

WORLDHOTELS HOTEL KUNLUN 昆仑饭店 Jia Jiang Hotels

By He Jianwei

Reuters announced that it would be launching a news bureau in the game Second Life on October 16. The news service will provide text, photo and video news from the outside world for those in the game from October 18. They will also provide Second Life news for those outside the game at secondlife.reuters.com. Got that? A news agency. In a computer game.

Adam Pasick will be Reuters' virtual bureau chief, and goes by the name of Adam Reuters in game. "As strange as it might seem, it's not that different from being a reporter in the real world. Once you get used to it—it becomes very much like the job I have been doing for years," he said.



Ready for your Second Life?



What is Second Life:

Second Life is one of several virtual worlds that have been inspired by the science fiction novel *Snow Crash* by Neal Stephenson, and the Cyber-punk literary movement. The stated goal of Linden Lab (the developers) is to create a world like the metaverse described in the novel *Snow Crash*, a user-defined world of general use in which people can interact, play, do business, and otherwise communicate.

Launched in 2003 by California-based Linden Lab, Second Life is a website where users create animated cartoon avatars to represent themselves—usually as humans (often buff, busty, beautiful humans), and sometimes as fanciful or furry creatures. Linden sells land in this virtual frontier, and users (aka 'residents') design and make everything from virtual stores for the land to virtual sweaters for the avatars. They buy things and sell things that exist only 'in world'—so many that last month US\$6.6 million in user to user transactions changed hands. They role-play, gamble, teach classes, make music, open restaurants, and push politics—all as they guide their avatars through the elaborate virtual landscapes and cityscapes that give Second Life its stepping-into-Wonderland quality.

"Second Life is no more a game than the Web is a game. It's a platform," said John Lester, 39, of Somerville, Linden's community and education manager. "This feels exactly like it felt when the Web was first coming out. I remember feeling the hair on the back of my neck standing up."



How to start your Second Life:

The registration in the Second Life is free. But if you want to trade in this world, the price system in this world has three levels: Basic Level is free, Additional Basic is one time fee of US\$9.95, and Premium level has three billing options, including monthly premium for US\$9.95, quarterly for US\$22.50, and annually for US\$72.00.



Useful tips for your Second Life:

Moving your avatar around

You can move the arrow keys to move your avatar.

'Page Up' pressed short will make it jump, pressed longer will make your avatar fly. 'Page Down' will move your avatar down again when it's flying. When flying you can use the arrow keys as well to fly into the specified direction.

'CTRL-R' enables and disabled Run mode that makes you move faster (but usually you fly then).

Communicating with the world

When other people are around, you can chat with them by clicking the 'Chat' button on the button panel on the lower edge of the window. Alternatively you can simply press 'Enter'. You can enter text and 'Enter' will send it to those people around you up to 20 meters. If you click the 'Shout' button next to the text entry field, you will shout it and it can be heard 100 meters around you. If you press 'ESC', you will leave chat mode.

If you want a personal chat (like a query in IRC) you can use the Instant Messaging System. Right-click the avatar you want to send an IM to and click the 'IM' section. Another window will appear and text you type in there will be sent to that avatar. If you get an IM and this window is closed a button, 'IM received' will appear at the bottom of your window and clicking on it will open it.

If you want to be friends with somebody, you should right-click the avatar and choose 'Add friend'. He or she will get a popup where it needs to be confirmed. Being a friend means that you can see their online status in the friends list (CTRL-F will open it) and you can see where those people are on the map.

Moving around the world

Walking is one way, flying another but getting over huge distances is not easy with that. Moreover there are islands, which cannot be reached by walking or flying. In order to get there you can use the map. Click 'Map' button at the bottom of your screen and the map will open. You can then zoom and pan around and click somewhere to mark that spot. Clicking 'Teleport' will get you there.



Serve the People bag



Shoes



Soldier uniform



Men's digital camouflage long sleeve T-shirt



Watch

The Casio PRG-50 is rugged and waterproof. You can't put a price on elegance, and perhaps the stopwatch function can help you time your strokes.

Casio PRG-50

Price: 2,750 yuan

Available: Casio local shelf in town

You're in the army now

By Gan Tian

Is there anything more butch than the soldier look? Some might argue for the leather clad cow-poke, but the military type has managed to keep mossy green in style forever. So what are the essentials that keep this look fresh for Beijing's urban rich and poor alike?



CFP Photos

Headwear

If you're getting down and dirty in the trenches, there's a good chance that your hard helmet could save your life. A nice helmet is also likely to endear you to your commanding officer if you keep it shiny. Perhaps they are a little stuffy for everyday wear, though. Why not try a nice beret instead? Peaked at that 'just so' angle our naval comrades call 'jaunty', you'll look absolutely divine. Would it be too much to suggest a pairing with a silk neck scarf?

Helmet with red star (only white and black): 300 yuan

Hats: 30 yuan

Available: 2011, F/2, Ya Xiu Clothing Market, Salitun, Chaoyang

Neckwear

A bullet shaped chain and a camouflage necktie you say? So butch it's to die for. The bare neck look is always a military favorite, but in this day and age, if you don't protect your neck, who will dear boy? This world is full of predatory old carnivores. You stick with me young fellow. I'll show you the ways of the world.

Bullet-shape necklace: 30 yuan
Available: 2011, F/2, Ya Xiu Clothing Market, Salitun, Chaoyang

Camouflage necktie: 28 yuan

Available: A78, F/5, Huawei Shopping Center, Xidan, Xicheng

Camouflage lipstick

Perhaps if you have a very unattractive mouth, you can use this to conceal it within your face. If your mouth is given to sneaking around, you can guarantee no one will see it coming while you're wearing this.

Available: No.47, Xinjiekou Nandajie, Xinjiekou, Xicheng
Price: 43 yuan

Tough Belt

Not sure if the 'tough' here refers to how easy the belt is to remove or the material, but that's irrelevant. Imagine if you were in the heat of battle and your trousers fell down. Oh, mercy. A good reason to get one – or is it?

Available: Shop 2G, BB59, Oriental Plaza, 1 Dongchang'an Jie, Dongcheng
Price: 290 yuan



Sexy soldier uniform

Bag

Show the world that you can be a 'giver' as well as a 'taker' with this *Wei Renmin Fuwu* bag (Serve the People).

Serve the People bag: 50 yuan
Available: 2011, F/2, Ya Xiu Clothing Market, Salitun, Chaoyang

Other bags: 40 yuan
Available: No. 45 Xinjiekou Nandajie, Xijiekou, Xicheng

Sexy soldier uniform

Not very PC, but seriously ladies, if you want to show your boyfriend you know where he's been going on his 'secret missions' give him this. If you're right, he'll probably wear it.

Available: http://www.yandy.com/Shopping/products/prod_290.asp

Price: US\$ 54.95

Camouflage briefs

When soldiers aren't 'going commando', they're probably using these to hide their nethers when on maneuvers and such. I've studied them closely and the support is heavenly.

Available: No.47, Xinjiekou Nandajie, Xinjiekou, Xicheng
Price: 35 yuan

Men's digital camouflage long sleeve T-Shirt

A very nice shirt you can buy from Amazon. Forget wearing it while traveling the Amazon – this one's more for those heading up the Khyber Pass.

Available: <http://www.amazon.com/>

Price: US\$ 5.99-13.99

Shoes

Big military shoes. And you know what big shoes mean... excuse me, I'm quite beside myself.

Available: 140, B1, Ya Xiu Clothing Market, Sanlitun, Chaoyang
Price: 260-320 yuan

Tips on giving yourself the soldier look

Choose a style for yourself. Military dress can be pop, sexy or sporty. Never lose the tough, strong image. That's the spirit of a soldier look. Camouflage is the main pattern.

Muscular guys can choose vests or tight T-shirts to show off their muscles; long sleeve jackets and camouflage coats go along well with slimmer chaps.

Girls who choose a sexy military style can try crop tops, vests, short skirts, and high-heels.

Boys who have long hair should give the army style a miss. Girls should wear pigtailed.

Accessories are the most important part in military dressing. They make this style exciting.

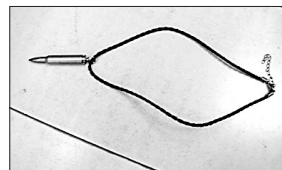
It looks very awkward when you put on more than three colors in a military style. Styles can be various, but colors should never be more than three.



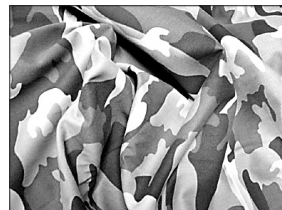
Helmet



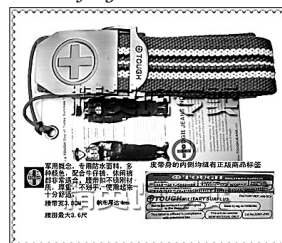
Hat



Bullet-shape necklace



Camouflage necktie



Tough Belt



Camouflage lipstick



Camouflage underwear

By Huang Daoheng

Two men walk into a pub, and... lower their risk of heart disease. While it may seem contradictory, the health benefits of beer are not a joke. According to Yang Jianhua, professor from Beijing University's Health Science Center, new research is generating buzz that moderate consumption of your favorite brew may help improve your health. "Beer is living proof that God loves us and wants us to be happy," Benjamin Franklin said it best.

Long used as medication, mixed with plants and a variety of ingredients,

beer was thought to cure ailments of all types: from skin disease to stomach problems, not to mention insomnia and strong fever.

Since the beginning of the 20th century, scientists have known that the boiling of water in brewing and the alcohol present in beer will either kill or reduce the growth of illness-forming bacteria. As the studies pile up, we can say something we wouldn't have said 20 years ago: you're better off including beer in your diet than not. And beer is a natural choice for the health conscious 21st century.

A beer a day keeps the doctor away



Beer and the heart

Observers worldwide have long suspected that drinking beer was somehow good for the heart. To date, over 60 studies throughout the world have investigated in detail whether drinking beer did

indeed lead to more healthy hearts, and how.

With few exceptions, epidemiological data from at least 20 countries in North America, Europe, Asia, and Australia demonstrate a

20 to 40 percent lower coronary heart disease (CHD) incidence among moderate beer drinkers.

Richard Doll, a British researcher, in a comprehensive review of the medical literature on

beer and moderate consumption notes that the support for a beneficial effect of alcohol on cardiovascular health is massive. He has found that male coronary artery disease (CAD) patients who con-

sumed moderate amounts of beer daily had favorable blood biochemical changes that are considered indicators of CAD prevention. Moderation, according to Dr Doll, is defined as one to three drinks a day.

Beer and strokes

Epidemiological studies conducted by Dr Doll have also found that moderate beer consumption is associated with fewer brain lesions. "The incidence of stroke is lower in light drinkers than nondrinkers," said Doll. The stud-

ies indicate that a beer consumption level of one or two drinks per day decreases stroke incidence by nearly 50 percent.

Dr Doll wrote that alcohol improves blood circulation in the brain and offers protection.

Beer and the kidneys

According to a Finnish-US study of beer drinking, an increase in beer consumption might reduce the risk of developing kidney stones. The study showed that there was a 40 percent lower risk of getting kidney

stones in beer drinkers.

The diuretic action of beer is due to the hops resin, which stimulates the kidneys, thereby contributing to the elimination not only of excess water in the body, but also of wastes and toxins.

Beer and stress

Popping off to the pub relieves stress. An investigation, conducted by Dr Colin Gill, from Leeds University, showed that the welcoming atmosphere of the pub helps men get rid of the stresses of modern life

and is vital for their psychological well-being.

Dr Gill said that women should encourage men to pop out for a beer. "Pub time allows men to bond with friends and colleagues," he said.

Other health benefits

People who drink alcoholic beverages have a lower risk of gallstones than do non-drinkers. A study appearing in the *American Journal of Epidemiology* indicates that beer protects against gallstone disease. Recommendations regarding moderate quantities of beer should also take into account the benefits for gallstone disease.

Beer intake has also been associated with a reduced risk of rheumatoid arthritis in women (the effect is unknown in men).

New research shows that beer can prevent stomach ulcers. According to a study appearing in the *British Medical Journal*, alcohol has a protective effect against the *Helicobacter pylori* bacteria – the bacteria now thought to be responsible for stomach ulcers.

Moderate beer consumption may also help to maintain bone density in postmenopausal women. Women who consumed moderate amounts of beer or alcohol had significantly higher bone densities at the lumbar spine compared with non-drinking women.

Drink to your health: Tips for beer lovers

Beer is a very important part of a man's life – many can't imagine life without the beloved drink. But remember that drinking too much can also lead to ruin.

Set your limit and pace

Decide how many drinks you will have in advance and stick to it. Don't be afraid to say "no thanks". Also, remember to drink slowly: a healthy liver can process a standard drink (a 12 oz can of beer) an hour, if you drink any faster than that, you risk overloading your liver.

Don't drink on an empty stomach

Eating a substantial meal before drinking can actually help slow the absorption of beer. A full stomach may also help you cut down on the amount of beer you can drink.

Drink water or non-alcoholic beverages between drinks

Beer dehydrates your body, so drinking a non-alcoholic drink between drinking not only helps you cut down on beer consumption; it also helps keep your body hydrated.

Don't annoy women in the morning

By He Jianwei

"I am hell in the morning, I need an hour of peace, quiet and above all harmony to enable me to wake up completely and get in the right frame of mind to tackle the day," said Daisy, my friend of her morning problem.

According to a new Sleep Council survey revealed on October 25, women are grumpier than men in the morning and they are not only grumpier more often but they are

grumpier for longer.

The new survey shows that 24 percent of men say they never wake up in a bad mood as opposed to only 14 percent of women. Women are also more likely to stay grumpier for longer with 13 percent of them staying in a bad mood for two to four hours as opposed to only 10 percent of men.

The survey finds that 41 percent of people believe that lack of sleep is the main reason for grumpiness

in the morning. "As men appear to sleep better than women (15 percent get a good seven nights sleep a week as opposed to only 9 percent of women), perhaps it's not surprising that more women than men get out of bed on the wrong side," said Jessica Alexander of the Sleep Council.

A good night's sleep is crucial to dealing with this morning problem. Make sure both your bed and bedroom are quiet and comfortable, take a hot bath 90 minutes before

bedtime and stay away from caffeine, nicotine and alcohol at least four to six hours before bed.

However, the best way is to keep a good mood everyday and not annoy each other in the morning. "My son, my partner and I get up in the morning at 6am and we all leave each other alone to do what we have to do. None of us are grumpy but we do try to let each other do our thing," said Guo Xiheng, an expert in sleep and respiratory disease.



Hainan Island

on the edge of the earth

China's most exotic province for a tropical getaway

By Tom Carter

It is interesting to note that while the island of Hainan in southwest China is the country's number two holiday travel destination (in between Jiuzhaigou National Park in Sichuan and Yunnan's Lijiang), most foreign tourists and expats living in the People's Republic have never even heard of Hainan Dao, let alone been there.

I used to be one of the guilty parties. Despite residing in China for an extended period of time, it was not until I began my epic travels across the country that I was introduced to what is in fact its smallest yet most exotic province.



From left to right: Dried fish in Sanya, Tom with local girls in Sanya, Beach in Sanya, Seafood market in Haikou, Fishing bay in Xinlong

Hainan's most popular season is, of course, Spring Festival, when legions of mainlanders shuddering from sub-zero winter temperatures spend Chinese New Year on the invitingly temperate beaches of the tropical island.

Conversely, sweltering summers turn Hainan into a veritable Hades (reclusive sun worshipers take note: you will literally have the beach to yourselves). It is not surprising, then, that Hang Dynasty exiles were once banished to 'The Edge of the Earth' as fatal punishment.

Hainan island has made significant progress over the centuries, from remote settlement to popular tourist attraction by way of repeatedly falling in and out of control of neighboring provinces until at last being granted provincial status in

1988 (disputably along with some 200 surrounding South China Sea islands) and declared a Special Economic Zone to spur investment.

Resultingly, the colonial capital city of Haikou on the north end of the island has become its commercial center, brimming with transportation hubs, department stores and enough hotels to accommodate all of China (which it literally does during the holidays).

Those wishing to remove themselves from the urban commotion will find rustic serenity on the central coastline around Xiangshui Bay, the only traffic being farmers in coned hats and grazing cattle. There, crystal waters lap at the shores of a brilliant expanse of sugary sand, where one may sip on coconuts, feast on fresh seafood and lay undisturbed beneath the

whispering palm trees.

For a more cultural experience, the lush Limuling mountain range in interior Hainan is home to the island's reclusive indigenous peoples, most notably the Miao and the majority Li minority, a colorful ethnicity whose proud elders continue to embrace their traditional customs, native dress and intricate body and facial tattooing.

But it is Sanya, 'the Hawaii of the Orient' that is the island's headlining attraction. Developed along Hainan's southern periphery, the bustling port city is framed by attractive beaches, a lively city center teeming with tourists gaudily attired in matching fluorescent beach wear, and a harbor congested with fishing vessels, the docks a blur of tangled netting, malodorous hauls of fish and salty dogs prepar-

ing for their next seafaring voyage.

Beyond the Sanya peninsula, Yalong Bay is a remarkable 7km stretch of white beach edged by a citadel of luxury hotels glowing in varying shades of pastel, their well-tended guests lounging poolside to the soothing sounds of Kenny G (on repeat), cocktail in hand.

No matter what your tastes – ridiculously overpriced or beach bum – 1.5 billion people agree, Hainan Dao is the tropical escape everyone should treat themselves to at least once during their stay in China.

Tom Carter, a freelance writer and photographer from San Francisco, has lived in PR China the past two and a half years. He is currently backpacking through all 32 Chinese provinces.

Transportation

Flights from Beijing to Haikou Airport, four times daily (four hours, 1,800 yuan)

Accommodation

The Treasure Island Hotel chain

in Haikou, Xinglong and Sanya are popular with budget travelers desiring resort-style comfort at economy prices (Prices for a double range from 200 yuan in the off-season, up to 1,000 yuan during Spring Festival)

www.treasureisland-hotel.com
Regional cuisine

Seafood on Hainan is plentiful, so prices are some of China's cheapest. Drove of street vendors come out at dusk to grill a bounty of fresh fare, including various species of

fish, clam, lobster, crab, squid and kelp. For desert, locals enjoy gnawing on sugarcane stalks or any of the abundant fruit. And, of course, coconut milk is an islander's beverage of choice, chopped and chilled for only one yuan!



Beach resort in Sanya

Photos by Tom Carter

One of the best known features of Africa is that the land is the home to wildlife. Wildlife resorts are the most popular destinations in countries like Kenya, Botswana, Tanzania and Zimbabwe. Wear your bags on your back and have an adventurous trip among the wildlife in Africa.

Heaven's wildlife

Serengeti National Park

Animals' home across Tanzania and Kenya

Location: Serengeti Plain in north Tanzania

This park is the most famous in Tanzania. The 14,763-square-kilometer region encompasses the Serengeti National Park, Ngorongoro Conservation Area, Maswa Game Reserve, Loliondo, Grumeti and Ikorongo Controlled Areas, and the Masai Mara National

Reserve in Kenya. Over 90,000 tourists visit the park each year.

The park, the Ngorongoro Conservation Area and the Masai Mara National Reserve across the border with Kenya protect the greatest and most varied collection of terrestrial wildlife on earth.

There is a large ecosystem built up of more than three million big mammals. Gnus make up a great percentage of the vegetarians here.



Zebras

Together with more than 200,000 zebras, they offer endless delicious meals for carnivores like lions, leopards, and hyenas. In the park, you can see elephants leisurely eating grass; giraffes walking elegantly in the forests; crocodiles hiding along the river bank waiting for prey to come.

The Serengeti has a Big Five – the animals which people most want to see. Lions and leopards

in the tall African grass; rhinos that will charge at the mere smell of a person; the Cape Buffalo hidden in the bushes and the terrors of an enraged elephant are the Big Five.

There is also a Little Five behind the stones, hidden in the grass and high on an Acacia branch. They are the ant lion, rhino beetle, elephant shrew, buffalo weaver, and leopard tortoise.

Masai Mara National Reserve

Encountering a live Discovery Channel

Location: Kenya

Covering an area of 1,510 square kilometers, the Masai Mara is an extension of the Serengeti National Park. It is one of the

few places where you can encounter a live Discovery Channel with all sorts of animals in a five-mile radius. A pride of lions can be spotted ready to make a run for a gazelle; a cheetah and its cub taking a nap on a rock; a pair



Gnus

of ostriches walking the open stretches of the savannah or a gazelle giving birth.

Another recommended activity is the hot air balloon safari. Early in the morning, you will be woken and driven to the departure

site. Once in the air, the view of the surrounding landscape, the rising of the sun between the mountains and the congregation of the animals at the river is beautiful. The air journey will be concluded with a champagne breakfast.

Chobe National Park

Home to the largest concentration of elephants

Location: Northwest Botswana

The Chobe National Park is the second largest national park in Botswana and covers 10,566 square kilometers. Its uniqueness in the abundance of wildlife and the true African nature of the region offers nice conditions for

safari experience.

The park is divided into four distinctly different ecosystems: Serondela with its lush plains and dense forests in the Chobe River area in the extreme north-east; the Savuti marsh in the west; the Linyanti Swamps in the north-west and the hot dry hinterland in between.

A major feature of Chobe



Elephants

National Park are its elephants – around 120,000.

The Chobe elephants are migratory, making seasonal movements of up to 200 kilometers from the Chobe and Linyanti rivers, where they concentrate in the dry season, to the pans in the southeast of the park, where they disperse in the rains.

Savuti, the famous western

corner of Chobe, covers 5,000 square kilometers and includes the Savuti Marsh and Channel, Mababe Depression and Magwikhwe Sand Ridge. Lions, hyenas and zebra migrations are synonymous but the area also hosts other predators and plains game species. Its pans and waterholes in the dry season sustain a large population of bull elephants.

Hwange National Park

Protected animals can be found here

Location: Southwest Zimbabwe, on the main road between Bulawayo and the world famous Victoria Falls.

Hwange National Park is one of Africa's finest havens for wildlife and is the home to vast herds of elephant, buffalo, and zebra and has a very large concentration

of giraffe. It is also home to many predators and endangered species and varied birdlife.

Hwange National Park covers 14,600 square kilometers. The park carries 105 mammal species, including 19 large herbivores and eight large carnivores. Elephant make up the largest proportion of the biomass.

All Zimbabwe's specially pro-



Animals' heaven in Hwange

ected animals can be found here and it is the only place where gemsbok and brown hyena occur. The number of wild dog here is thought to be one of the largest.

The landscape includes desert sand, sparse woodland, grasslands and granite outcrops. Due to the lack of water, man-made waterholes were introduced to sustain the animals through the

dry season.

The park has an interesting variety of landscapes with one part running alongside the North-eastern end of the Kalahari Desert. The south is sandy with extensive forests and open grassland. A feature of the area is ancient fossil dunes – ancient sand dunes held together by vegetation.

(By Jackie Zhang)



CFP Photos

The internship season is with us again, another round of letter writing, interviews and big decisions. So what is the best way to play the intern game? Here we give you some hints and tips.

What you should know about internships

How to get an internship

1. Go online

Internship positions appear sporadically. Different departments will have new positions throughout the year. Visiting your targeted company's official website is a good way to start on the path to getting an internship. Many companies release recruitment information online.

Companies like IBM, Intel, HP, and Lenovo, usually put their internship position information on their websites as soon as the positions become available.

2. Use your contacts!

According to HR manager Fan Xing of Alcatel-Sbell Shanghai, many companies have "talent recommendation plans" – special systems for encouraging employees to recommend friends who they think would be suited to the company. He said that 20 percent of the employees at Alcatel-Sbell Shanghai were recruited in this way. So get onto the phone and use those contacts!

Example: Liu Yang (pseudonym) returned to China after finishing his studies in Germany last year. He had studied at Beijing Jiaotong University before going to German. Siemens China recruits many graduates from the university every year. One of Liu's classmates was an active person in the university, often recommending his schoolmates to Siemens China. Liu was offered an internship position at Siemens China after being recommended by his friend. As Liu had studied in Germany and could speak both English and German, he was eventually offered a full-time job.

3. Get help from your tutor

Wang Li graduated from an economic university in Beijing the year before last. Her tutor recommended that she work as an intern at a famous investment company when she was in her second year of postgraduate studies. Then, with the help of her tutor, Wang Li worked in a press office in charge of publishing and editing economic books. She did an internship there for nine months and was then offered a full-time position at the press office.

4. Contact companies directly

The founder of We@Link, Zou Ling, encourages students to contact company HR departments directly, even if they aren't advertising intern positions. "If they come to me, I'll think about giving them an internship because that shows courage and determination."

Cao Laijing added, "This method is a good opportunity for students to learn how to communicate with others and build up their courage."

(By Jackie Zhang)



CFP Photo

How to turn an internship into a job

The main aim of doing an internship is to get a full-time job at the company. Here, four managers give an insight into how students go from interns into employees.

1. Doing a short-term internship may give you a better chance of getting a job at the end of it. Lu Xiaoshi, HR manager of HP China, introduced the CSG Plan, which only recruited 45 interns last year. They did a three-month internship and almost all of them joined the company.

2. It is more difficult to get a full-time position in companies that recruit interns throughout the year. According to Kuang Maogong, HR director in IMB Greater China, last year only 60 percent of applicants became interns and only 1 percent of them ended up staying at the company. This year IBM focused on getting interns into their sales and service departments, with the internship period between July and September. The company's entire 2007 graduate intake will come from the summer internship scheme. He said that this year, competition among the interns was fiercer than ever.

3. It is the internship performance not the interview performance that decides whether you stay or go. "Those whose values are in accordance with IBM's values are the kind of people we are looking for," said Kuang. "Interviews can be misleading, because some students are very good at doing interviews and it's only through an internship that we can judge whether or not his or her values really match the company's. The HR department is only a matchmaker. Whether he or she stays depends on the person in charge of HR."

4. Kingsoft's HR manager Wang Chunwei said that EQ (emotional quotient) is an important factor in judging candidates. Those who are hardworking, honest, and earnest can win the company's trust.

Things you should know before starting an internship

1. Interns are not protected by the Labor Law

"Though the Education Ministry and Youth League have published a regulation on interns, demanding the school, the company and the individual should sign an agreement, there is no specific law on interns' rights," said Han Zhili, the president of the China Labor Protection Newspaper. However, he gives several suggestions on how to protect yourself during the internship.

2. Before entering a company to do an internship, you must sign an agreement;

3. Make sure the rights and obligations of the both sides are clear, for example, working hours, working contents, and what happens if you are injured at work;

4. You should be clear that doing an internship and working are two very different things;

5. If you work in a local enterprise, you are still protected by the local government's regulations, like the Beijing Salary Regulations and The Standard of the Lowest Salary. (By Gan Tian)

Payment

It is no doubt that a successful internship helps to pave the way to a successful career. It is especially true for Chinese college students who face massive competition in the job market. But how should you get what you deserve before being able to turn an internship into a paying job. These are the things you should know.

No salary but allowances

An internship is not a paying job, but a form of training. No contracts will be signed between interns and the companies, so interns are not entitled to any salary. But after all, interns serve the companies to some extent, so some companies may be willing to reward them with a certain amount of money. What interns are much more likely to get are allowances, according to Fan Zhanjiang, Secretary General of the National Committee of Labor Arbitration.

If companies keep hiring interns and paying them meager allowances while claiming that they are offering internships, the companies may be breaking the law. If so, the interns should turn to the law for help to get what they deserve, Fan added.

Pushing for agreements

Interns are not yet employees, so cannot turn to arbitrations even if the companies trample on their rights and interests.

Current labor laws fail to ensure fair treatment for interns, even if they are hurt at work, according to Yang Zhigang, an expert on labor law.

But interns can sometimes reach agreements with companies on issues relating to their welfare during their internship, though currently few companies sign such agreements. However, interns should still defend their own rights

and try to sign such agreements, said Ren Zhanzhong, head of the capital's office for the city's graduate employment, part of the Beijing Municipal Education Committee.

Minimum intern allowances

The capital has issued regulations on interns' treatment and payment in 2000, but most students still do not know the regulations.

Employers, schools and students should sign agreements before the internships begin and employers should pay interns for their work according to the agreements. In addition, interns' allowances should not be less than the capital's minimum salary. If employers break the agreement and cause damage to the students or schools interests, they should pay them compensation, according to the regulations on part-time work in the capital.

The minimum monthly salary is 640 yuan (US\$80), according to the latest standard issued by the municipal government in June.

Aim for an internship at a well-known company

It is a tradition and part of the human resource management policy in many enterprises, especially those well-known companies, that interns are entitled to rewards during their internship.

For example, Lenovo will sign agreements with interns and reward them with service allowances. In addition, the company also promises to offer free lunch for all interns and free lodging for interns who are not from places where the company is located, according to Lenovo's Wu Qi, who is in charge of the company's campus recruitment project.

(By Jiang Xubo)

Follow Beijing Today

This column is open to those who want to improve their English but lack foreign specialized help. We will review the English articles you send to Shirley_chen@ynet.com. Suggestions will be given on how to improve the Chinglish sentences in your articles. All interesting stories are welcomed. Please be sure the article is written in English, around 500 words in total. Please do not forget to include your name and address.

Autumn Leaves

By Yang Chao

As a southerner, I am always dreaming of the golden autumn of Beijing before coming here. I am really shocked when I see red and golden leaves falling onto the land for the first time. In my hometown, you know, I did see the fallen leaves silently lying on the land every fall. But I never saw so many leaves flying and dancing in the air.

It looks like a beautiful picture in a dream and a fine scene in a movie. Standing in the rain of falling leaves, you will feel so comfortable and relaxed that you will forget who and where you are. I love this kind of romantic atmosphere. It purifies your soul and offers you a chance to think about the nature and your life, which I think is very important and necessary for us who live in the quick fix society. It's so enjoyable a thing to stop our steps and have a good look of the fine view.

I hate to hear that every leaf is an ended life. I believe that every leaf has left an elegant curved line in the air before he or she retunes to the earth. Look at that red one. She unwillingly leaves the branch. But the separation doesn't make her unhappy for a long time. She soon begins to dance in the wind. She is so skilled and graceful a dancer that every one will fancy her dance steps. At the same time, she is very proud. She dances in her own way. Sometimes she has a waltz, and sometimes she dances the tango. She jumps up and down for a while, and then takes slow and light steps. No one can stop her or change her. I don't know whether she will cry when she lands on the earth. But I do know she has ever danced cheerfully and has already given people a nice memory.



Yang Chao is a student at Beijing Forestry University.

Tyler Spence replies

For your title, Autumn leaves, you use an impressive double entendre expressing both beauty and life. As autumn leaves, the reader can sense the images nature leaves on you. The leaves begin the grand finale as their chance to perform has finally arrived before they are, 'silently lying on the land.' Your writing style transition to personification intensifies the visual images of, 'She', pertaining to the leaf. With so many wonderful ideas, there are also some rough edges in your writing that need to be smoothed out.

The first aspect you need to pay attention to is your tenses. When you say, 'I am always dreaming of the golden autumn of Beijing, before coming here.' A more concise way of saying this would be, 'I was always dreaming of the golden autumn of Beijing'. 'I was really shocked when I saw the red and golden leaves falling onto the land for the first time.' Other than the opening paragraph, your tenses were quite consistent.

In the next aspect of grammar, 'But' should not be capitalized and placed at the beginning of the sentence if the meanings are closely related. For clarity, 'but the separation...' and 'but I do know she has....' Its best to use a comma in this case, but when you have too many commas, there is good reason to take out 'you know,' and link the thought into one sentence. As for your hometown, knowing you come from the South strengthens the impact these sights made on you, but there is no need to say 'you know'. This type of phrase is used more with-in a dialogue. Another important aspect of dialogue is knowing when to use abbreviations. 'It's' and 'doesn't' flow nicely while speaking, but in the context of most articles, its best to write it the long way, 'It is' and 'does not'.

To lead off your next paragraph is the opening sentence, 'It looks like a beautiful picture in a dream and a fine scene in a movie.' The reader is assuming that you have been reminded of both the dream and movies that you personally experienced. Using 'or' instead of 'and' lets one relate more to the images of your picture rather than imagining specific images of the dream and movie that they haven't seen. Since we don't know what your dream or movie were about, there needs to be more description. 'It's so enjoyable a thing to stop our steps and have a good look of the

fine view.' Get rid of the vagueness with better description, 'It's such an enjoyable feeling to stop our steps and take a good look at the lively yet relaxing view.' Replacing 'thing' and 'fine' leads to a more descriptive conclusion to your visual feelings. 'You will' and 'Fine' was also used twice and are not as descriptive of adjective unless you want to describe the feeling of fine sand.

Your final paragraph is so vividly personified with the exception of the opening two sentences. 'I hate to hear' and 'I believe' should not be placed in back to back sentences. Choose a different way to start a paragraph without beginning with, 'I hate'. For example, 'It bothers me to hear others say every fallen leaf is an ended life.' Adding 'fallen' also clearly points out the stage of the leaf once off the tree. The rest of the concluding paragraph is a great example of how personification can pull in the readers' attention with a few grammatical changes.

Many of your descriptions use similar adjectives and adverbs. For instance, when choosing between 'very important and necessary', you can choose between either one and then make this sentence shorter by not adding 'I think'. Whenever using the same words or meaning twice in a row, it's best to choose the proper location of the word and context for it to be said in. In the section, 'no one can stop her or change her.' Alter it to, 'no one can stop or change her.' This also applies to, 'Sometimes she has a waltz, and sometimes she dances the Tango.' Both 'sometimes' and 'she' could be stated once or varied in the context to allow the sentence to flow. 'She dances her own way, sometimes doing the waltz and other times the tango.'

Linking sentences by using 'but' or taking away repetition can help fuse more ideas into one. 'At the same time,' is this context can be easily discarded to incorporate 'proud' into her dance by livening her image with 'proud steps.' Other than telling you to check your spelling and phrasing for words like, 'the nature' and 'retunes', I only have one last comment. Your memories consist of so much wonderful details, you are not giving yourself justice by concluding with an anticlimactic word like 'nice'. So remember are to make your sentences shorter and say more. It will come naturally once you have pieced together these grammar rules.

Tyler Spence from American works in Beijing Victor International Culture and Arts Group.

Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify chinglish in public areas. If you see any chinglish signs, please take a picture and send them to Shirley_chen@ynet.com with your name and address.

Tasteless toilet humor



Photo by Andreas Thorud

By Philip Space

*This WC is free of washing
Please leave off after
Pissing or shitting*

This sign doesn't pull any punches. It reads like a drunk northern Englishman might speak after a daylong drinking binge. But, amusing as it might be for a casual observer of signs like myself, it risks offending anyone of even a slightly weaker constitution. What the author clearly didn't realize is that the words 'pissing' and 'shitting' are considered in most English speaking parts of the world (Ireland being the exception) as rude ways of describing the action of relieving oneself. The last line, therefore, should have been replaced with something along the lines of '...after going to the toilet' or better still '...after using the wash-room'. Unfortunately, the use of two slightly inappropriate words is not the sign maker's only mistake. Due to a scattering of grammatical errors, the first and second lines are bordering on the incomprehensible.

A river of woe



Photo by Andreas Thorud

By Philip Space

Carefully fall to the river

I think it would be safe to assume that the maker of this sign didn't actually intend to direct people into the river. They may have been preparing for what they assumed to be the inevitable - that if someone's that close to the river they're going to fall in so they may as well be advised to fall in 'carefully'. But that explanation also seems slightly implausible. My intuition tells me the sign makers want to warn people about the danger of falling into the river. In which case their message would be better phrased 'Please take care when walking along the river'.



GOOSE "N" DUCK
SERVING BEIJING'S
INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY!
"SINCE 1996"

**CHAO YANG
PARK WEST**
65381691

JOHNNY DUCKS! "HAPPY HOUR"
MONDAY TO FRIDAY 2/4/1 - 4/2/8
SATURDAY "N" SUNDAY 2/4/1 - 2/2/8



Friday, November 3

Exhibition Post-80s avant-garde artists series exhibition



Where: Amelie Gallery, Room 505, No 5 Building, China Central Place, No 89 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang
When: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm, until December 20
Admission: Free
Tel: 6530 7048

Song Kun: It's My Life



Hailed as the most promising young female artist during the 2005 Triennial of Chinese Art,

Song Kun's solo exhibition this time is a diary painting series.

Where: Universal Studios, Compound 8A, Airport Service Road, Caochangdi, Chaoyang
When: Tue-Sat 11am-7pm, until November 19
Admission: Free
Tel: 6432 2600

Movie Nha Fala



In young Vita's family in Cape Verde, there is a legend according to which anybody does so is doomed to die. In France, where Vita is a student, she meets Pierre, a young musi-



cian with whom she falls in love. She allows herself to sing and Pierre discovers the beauty of her voice. He persuades her to make a record which quickly becomes a big hit. But Vita decides to return to her native country to confess all to her

family and face up to tradition.

Where: French Culture Center, 18 Guangcai International Apartment, West Road of Workers' Stadium, Chaoyang
When: 6pm, until November 8
Admission: 10-20 yuan
Tel: 6553 2627

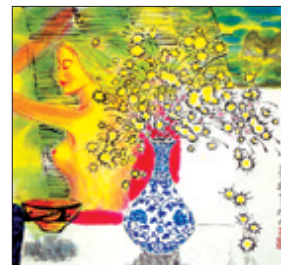
Sunday, November 5

Exhibition Contemporary Oil Painting Group Exhibition



Where: Qin Gallery, Enjoy Paradise, 1-1E Huawei Li (North of Beijing Curio City), Chaoyang
When: Daily 9:30am-6pm, until November 30
Admission: Free
Tel: 8779 0461, 8779 0458

Spring Dance – Zhu Weibin solo exhibition



Where: Melodic Gallery, 14 Jianguomenwai Street, opposite the Friendship Store, Chaoyang
When: Daily 10am-4:30pm, until November 25
Admission: Free
Tel: 6515 8123

I love Beijing Tian An Men Square

Where: Yan Club Arts Center, Dashanzi Art District, No 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
When: Daily 10am-6pm, until November 14
Admission: Free
Tel: 8457 3506

Movie Traces, empreintes de femmes

The wall paintings of the Kasenas women in Burkina Faso, near the border with Ghana, are famous for the beauty of their patterns and the harmony of their colors. In looking at this subject, Katy Lena Ndiaye has chosen to compare and contrast tradition with modernity.

Where: French Culture Center, 18 Guangcai International Apartment, West Road of Workers' Stadium, Chaoyang.
When: 8pm, until November 8
Admission: 10-20yuan
Tel: 6553 2627



Saturday, November 4

Exhibition Image of a Hero – Shen Jindong solo exhibition



Where: New Millennium Gallery, 3818 Warehouse, No 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
When: Daily 10am-6:30pm, until November 23
Admission: Free
Tel: 6432 4122, 13911166261

Movie Vacances au pays

Jean-Marie Teno goes back, just for the summer, to the land of his childhood in Cameroon. From Yaounde, the city, to Bandjoun, the village where he once used to spend his holidays, this journey enables him to take subjective, ample documented stock of his country, adopting an ironic tone. Moving from encounter to encounter, the filmmaker denounces official incompetence and fascination for modernity imported from Europe, unsuited to Africa and its tradition. He notes with regret, "school taught us to scorn the symbols of our culture, to despise the discourse of our grandparents." Seeking a

new model for Africa, he aspires to a form of modernity that would reconcile the country with its own culture.

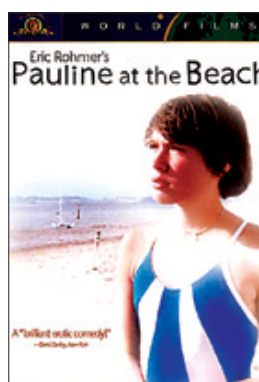
Where: French Culture Center, 18 Guangcai International Apartment, West Road of Workers' Stadium, Chaoyang.
When: 3pm, until November 5
Admission: 10-20 yuan
Tel: 6553 2627

Pauline at the Beach

Fifteen-year-old Pauline and her older cousin, model-shaped Marion, go to the Atlantic coast for an autumn holiday. Marion ignores the approaches of a surfer and falls for Henri, a hedonist who is only interested in a sexual adventure and soon drops her.

Where: Box Cafe, Xiwang-zhuang Xiaoqu, Shuangqing Lu, Haidian

When: 7:30pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6279 1280



Stage in December

Music

Lin Zhaoliang Violin Solo Concert

Who: Lin Zhaoliang
Where: Century Theater, 40 Liangmaqiao Road, Chaoyang
When: 7:30pm,
December 1

Admission: 80-680yuan

Li Yundi Piano Recital

Who: Li Yundi
Where: Century Theater, 40 Liangmaqiao Road, Chaoyang
When: 7:30pm,
December 3

Admission: 100-1,280yuan

Cai Qin Vocal Concert

Who: Cai Qin, one of the

Taiwan Ivy Singers

Where: Great Hall of the People, on the west side of Tiananmen Square, Xicheng
When: 7:30pm,
December 16

Admission: 180-1,680yuan

Christmas Eve Concert

Who: Richard Clayderman
Where: Great Hall of the People, on the west side of Tiananmen Square, Xicheng
When: 7:30pm,
December 24

Admission: 180-2,880 yuan

The New Year's Concert

Who: China Philharmonic Orchestra

Where: Poly Theatre, No 14 Dongzhimen South Street, Chaoyang

When: 7:30pm,
December 31

Admission: 100-1,000yuan

Dance

Russian Royal Ballet

Who: Russian Royal Ballet, originated from Moscow Grand Theater, includes 40 dancers.

Where: Beijing Exhibition Theater, No 135 Xizhimen Wai Street, Xicheng

When: 7:30pm,
December 15-16
Admission: 80-800 yuan

Opera and Drama Snow White

Who: Teatro del Carretto
Where: Beijing Oriental Pioneer Theater, No 8-2 Dongdan Santiao, Dongcheng

When: 7:30pm, December 1-3
Admission: 50-120 yuan

Thunderstorm (Lei Yu)

Who: Beijing People's Art Theatre

Where: Capital Theater, No 22 Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng

When: 7:30pm,
November 9-13
Admission: 80-500 yuan
(By Qiu Jiaoning)